





## Beirut negotiators await Israeli withdrawal pledge

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery duels often devastate parts of South Lebanon as guerrillas harass Israeli troops on the Middle East's last battle line, but the Beirut government seems in no rush to speed up peace talks that could send the Israelis packing.

While Israel signed an autonomy deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last year and Jordan is making strides towards peace, the Lebanese-Israeli track has been frozen for months.

Just as Syria is seeking an Israeli pledge to pull out of the Golan Heights before there can be a breakthrough in peace talks, Beirut demands an Israeli commitment to withdraw from South Lebanon before it will discuss ways and means to peace.

When U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley asked Lebanese President Elias Hrawi this month to raise the level of peace talks to foreign minister level, Mr. Hrawi refused, Lebanese sources said.

Last week, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher repeated the request to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, he replied that both Syria and Lebanon would consider raising the level of their delegations only when there was progress on the two tracks, the sources said.

Mr. Assad, whose 35,000

troops in Lebanon make him the country's ultimate power broker, personally asked Mr. Christopher for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from its occupation zone in South Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley.

The Syrian president promised that once the pledge was made he would ask Mr. Hrawi to form a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee to work out security measures safeguarding northern Israel against guerrilla attack, and a reasonable timetable for an Israeli pull-out.

Israel's repeated demands in the past for formation of the committee have met Lebanese demands for an Israeli commitment to withdraw.

Each time, the Israelis reply that they will make the commitment once Beirut disbands the Hizbollah group whose 2,000 Iranian-trained and equipped guerrillas harass its troops daily in South Lebanon.

Israel says it will take the next step in peace negotiations only after that, when the frontier zone has been quiet for six months.

Lebanon replies that Hizbollah has a perfect right to resist occupation.

Because of the deadlock, Mr. Christopher has not bothered to visit Lebanon on his last three Middle East

swings.

But on Saturday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa came to Beirut to tell Lebanese officials that this time Mr. Assad and Mr. Christopher discussed the Lebanese track at length.

According to Lebanese sources, Mr. Assad told Mr. Christopher that if there is peace between Syria, Lebanon and Israel, Syria and Lebanon will sign together. He said neither country will sign before the other.

Beirut's bottom line is the land-for-peace principle on which the Middle East peace process was launched at the Madrid conference in December 1991.

And the basis for that, Lebanese officials say, is an Israeli commitment to abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which demands its unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

Once that is done, Lebanon says there will be no problem in disbanding Hizbollah and establishing security on the frontier.

The day Israel accepts the principle of withdrawal, this resistance will have no more cause and the Lebanese government will have all normal authority to implement security in the whole of South Lebanon," a senior Lebanese official told Reuters recently. "There is a Lebanese commitment to that."



An Israeli water skier waves an Israeli and a Jordanian flag during a nautical peace happening in the Red Sea Monday. A flotilla of some 20 small crafts covered in Israeli and Jordanian flags sailed from the Israeli resort of Eilat to the Jordanian territorial waters to celebrate the Israeli-Jordanian summit (AFP photo)

## Jordanians jubilant over summit

By Jamal Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Ululation filled the air when television broadcast live images of King Hussein exchanging warm handshakes and back-pats in a White House ceremony with the leader of Israel, Jordan's enemy for nearly half a century.

The fervor appeared a setback to expectations of Muslim fundamentalists and other peace opponents that King Hussein had gone too far and too quickly for his subjects.

"Does the declaration mean that I can visit Israel next month?" asked Amal Baidoun, 26, a kindergarten teacher, as she watched TV at her luxurious apartment in Amman's suburb.

"This should have taken place fifty years ago," said Eid Marji, 45, an Amman bookshop salesman, who also watched King Hussein and

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the state of belligerence that has existed between their countries since 1948.

"This will lead to security and prosperity for us," he said, reflecting a widespread belief that a settlement with Israel will activate Jordan's stagnant economy, straining under \$6.6 billion foreign debt accumulated in the 1980s.

Saud Zubeidi, 32, a contractor, said: "Our King's courageous decision to meet with Rabin is an effort that we should be thanked for."

"He knows best what is good for his people and his nation and he has our full support," added Mr. Zubeidi.

"Mr. Zubeidi's reaction was shared by many who see King Hussein as a savior who overcame Jordan's development into a relatively prosperous and cosmopolitan nation from a backward, resource-poor land of nomads.

## ... but also unsure of peace benefits

By Suleiman Al Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — A subdued and resigned Jordanian public watched the Washington summit on television on Monday, anxious for peace but sceptical about whether Israel will withdraw from occupied lands.

"I do not say I am with or against the peace process, I am looking to practical signs of peace on the ground," Fakhr Jundi, 35, said while watching the Israeli-Jordanian summit from his bakery in downtown Amman.

Mr. Jundi and others said they would put behind past enmity only if the Jewish state withdrew from occupied Arab lands and restored territory occupied in the 1967 war.

Despite the handshakes and pledges of peace by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, most interviewed in Amman's teeming and poor downtown expressed scepticism about Israel's

intentions.

Some were uncompromising.

Assistant pharmacist Iman Atta called the Washington declaration "just a cover for Israeli interests with Arab help."

Others were willing to give the new peace a chance after nearly a half century of conflict.

"I have doubts about Israel's intentions, but if they withdraw from some of our lands we will be ready to coexist with them," said 45-year-old office worker Ibrahim Abdul Hadi.

The enthusiasm seen in Washington was replaced in Amman by acceptance that Jordan and other Arab states could not defeat Israel on the battlefield and it was time to make peace.

"We have been fighting since 1948 without achieving anything and if we continue wars we cannot beat Israel," said Majid Hamid, an unemployed labourer watching state television's live coverage of the landmark summit.

"Let us breathe air and enjoy peace like everyone else," Mr. Hamid said in the Kamel coffee shop, glancing at the television as he played cards with his friends.

"We ought to have reached this peace 20 years ago."

Many saw the summit as the only option left to an Arab state with little military power and under intense U.S. pressure to end a state of war that has existed since the creation of Israel in 1948.

"The peace on offer was the only choice to bring prosperity but it was not the peace we wanted to restore full rights," said Abdullah Hijazi, owner of a downtown coffee shop.

"This peace will reduce tension, but there will never be an end to the religious division between us and the Jews," he said. They may come as tourists like the rest but we can never make real friends with them."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gaza has new municipal council

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has appointed Gaza City's first municipal council, after months of wrangling over the participation of Islamic, fundamentalist factions and other groups opposed to his autonomy agreement with Israel. The new council is composed of ten non-partisan technocrats and is to start operating shortly. Awni Shawa, council head, said Tuesday. He said he will continue efforts to bring in representatives of the four main opposition groups, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "For functional purposes, I prefer independents, but we have to have all the political factions to make our job easier," Shawa, an economist, told AFP. "The new council will start functioning as of tomorrow," he said, adding that its first task will be to assess the needs of the city, especially its run-down public services.

### Observers prepare to leave Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — International observers are preparing to leave the massacre town of Hebron on Aug. 8 in the absence of an Israeli accord to extend their mission to boost security for Palestinians. "This is the right decision, that we are going home," said Bjarno Sorensen, spokesman for the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. "We have built a relationship between the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians in the city which can continue after we have left. They are the best people to solve the problems, the complexities of the religions here, the mosque and the settlements." The 116 observers from Norway, Italy and Denmark were deployed on May 8 after a Jewish settler slaughtered more than 30 Muslims in the occupied town on Feb. 29. Israel reluctantly agreed to the mission which the Palestinians demanded as protection for the 120,000 inhabitants, but the terms of reference ruled out any policing role. The observers decided against carrying pistols and when the army declared curfew they were not even allowed out.

### Egyptian police arrest militant group

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police in southern Cairo arrested a group of militants who were planning to kill police officers and other prominent people, security sources said on Tuesday. Police found weapons and explosives on members of the group, which was based in the southeastern suburb of Helwan. The sources gave no other details of the case, such as the size of the group or when police arrested them. The Egyptian authorities say they are waging the war against militants trying to overthrow the government. The militant groups have been relatively inactive since police killed militant leader Talaat Yassin Hammam in a raid on a Cairo flat three months ago.

### Iran, Turkey to boost cooperation

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkey promised Tuesday it would prohibit exiled Iranian dissidents use of its territory for activities against Iran, but added it expected Tehran to reciprocate by according Kurdish rebels the same treatment. President Suleyman Demirel said in Tehran that "the enemies of the Iranian nation will not be permitted to use Turkish territory against neighbouring Iran, and we have the same expectation from Iran." Mr. Demirel, who was meeting with Iran's spiritual leader, Mr. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said there was "no mistrust between Iran and Turkey," Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying that "Iran believes that the two countries can create a friendly and trusting atmosphere in bilateral ties by preempting the activities of their enemies in each other's territories." Mr. Demirel, who arrived in Tehran Monday for a three-day official visit, said that he had come to Iran to "review bilateral relations and to boost them," the radio reported. He said trade, as well as regional and international issues, were on the agenda of his talks in Iran.

### Iraq denies holding Iranian POWs

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday denied Iranian accusations that it was holding more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war (POWs) and countercharged that Iraq wanted to keep Iraqi prisoners locked up, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the International Committee of the Red Cross would confirm that all Iraqis captured during the 1980-1988 war had been freed, according to INA monitored in Cyprus. The chairman of Iran's POW commission, Mohammad Ali Nazarian, said on July 13 that Tehran had proof Iraq was holding 31,778 Iranian prisoners, including 16,000 in secret camps. Mr. Nazarian also denied Baghdad's earlier charges that Iran holds 20,000 Iraqi POWs. He said 10,000 former Iraq prisoners had sought political asylum in Iran and 1,722 others had been listed as POWs. The dispute over the POWs and missing in action poses a major hurdle to improving relations between the former foes.

### Manila to complain to S. Arabia about contracts

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine government is to complain to the Saudi Arabian authorities about Filipino workers who are given different contracts when they arrived in the kingdom, the Foreign Department said Monday. In a report to the foreign affairs department, Philippine envoy to Saudi Arabia Romulo Espaldon said workers arrived to be forced by employers to sign new contracts which "indiscriminately" reduced salaries. The substitute documents also eviscerated work conditions different from those originally stated, he added. He said most of the contracts failed to make provisions for medical treatment, the repatriation of remains in case of death, and periods of long separation. The labour department estimated there are 600,000 Filipinos employed in Saudi Arabia, most of them as domestic helpers or construction workers.

## Row over wording delaying Iraq-Turkey pipeline deal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A deal to flush the Iraq-Turkey pipeline is being hampered by a dispute over humanitarian supplies to be bought with the crude pumped out, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

Baghdad does not want any reference to "equitable distribution" — in particular to the Kurds — in the resolution to be drafted by the U.N. Security Council, on the grounds that such a mention would infringe its sovereignty, MEES said.

But the United States insists there should be a clear mention of equitable distribution, with specific assurances that the Kurds, who are led by groups hostile to President Saddam Hussein, would receive their fair share.

Turkish diplomats are continuing their efforts at the United Nations to reach a compromise, the Cyprus-based newsletter said.

Turkey shut down the pipeline system on Aug. 7, 1990, in compliance with a U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

If the United Nations approves the flushing operation, 27 million barrels of crude would be pumped over six months from the double pipeline system which links the Kirkuk fields in northern Iraq to the Turkish oil terminal of Yumurtalik on the Mediterranean, MEES said.

The crude will be processed and consumed within Turkey, and the money generated will be deposited in a U.N. escrow account, with 30 per cent of the proceeds going to the U.N.-controlled Gulf war compensation fund, and another portion to cover U.N. expenses in Iraq, the weekly added.

The remainder of the funds would be divided equally between Iraq and Turkey, with Ankara providing Baghdad with humanitarian goods equivalent in value to Iraq's share so that no cash would be handed over.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has formed a ministerial commission to stop Iraqi pharmacists cashing in on medicines distributed by the state at cheap prices.

In a cabinet on Sunday, he asked for suggestions on ways to guarantee that medical supplies were handed out at prices determined by the state as patients now find it hard to pay the exorbitant rates the pharmacists ask.

Iraq says it is facing an acute shortage of medical supplies which it blames on the sanctions.

Babel, a newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, admitted that drug prices had soared far beyond what ordinary citizens can afford.

Babel did not say what measures the government would take against pharmacists who overcharge but traders and retailers not abiding by government-set prices face up to one year in prison.

The medical black market is growing in Baghdad with different kinds of medicines being sold by pavement vendors.

U.N. and non-governmental humanitarian agencies supply part of Iraq's medical supplies.

In Amman, Greek diplomats said Greece had promised Iraq sophisticated machinery and expertise to rebuild the country's infrastructure, devastated by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

The diplomats told the Associated Press that the

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Ghazi Zaidieh ..... 736011  
Dr. Khalid Asfour ..... 666873  
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi ..... 648633  
Dr. Youssef Al Faghi ..... 759988  
Fine pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fardous pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649943  
Shamoun pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairokh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najj pharmacy ..... 847632

#### REPAIRS

Dr. Ahmad Qamr ..... (—)  
Al Oudh Pharmacy ..... (—)

#### ZARQA

Dr. Akram Haddad ..... 985550  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 955417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 661111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalil Maternity, J. Ann

Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192 821111, 837777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 773121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 83021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 680100  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

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#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

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# U.S. wants U.N. observers to monitor invasion of Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States Monday called for U.N. observers to monitor its possible invasion of Haiti and proposed a 6,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force to take over after the invaders leave.

But a draft of the U.S. initiated resolution, obtained by Reuters, gives no warning date for a possible invasion as the United States did to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf war.

Both the lack of a deadline and the call for U.N. monitors is causing Washington's allies to have second thoughts about United Nations personnel being in Haiti at the same time as an invasion force. Diplomats said these provisions may be revised.

A U.S. official said he hoped for adoption of the resolution by Friday but that it could slip into the weekend. The mandate for the abortive U.N. mission in Haiti expires Sunday and the

U.S. resolution is meant to replace it.

The Clinton administration is laying the diplomatic groundwork for armed intervention by seeking United Nations authorisation for an invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders and allow Washington to choose the date.

The military overthrew exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a September 1991 coup.

The resolution would ask the United Nations to authorise a U.S.-led multinational force to use "all necessary means" to restore the "legitimate authorities in Haiti and establish and maintain a secure and stable environment."

It also would establish "concurrent with the deployment of the multinational force, a small observer group" reporting to Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali for coordination purposes.

The document says that after the U.S.-led force ends its mission, the United Nations should take over with 6,000 soldiers and police. Dr. Ghali previously had suggested 1,200 troops.

The U.N. force should be in place by February 1995, after Haiti holds another round of presidential elections, the draft says. Mr. Aristide, the country's first democratically elected president, took office in early 1991 and served only seven months before the military overthrew him.

The U.S. official said the U.N. peacekeeping group would also include Americans. Washington would like up to 50 per cent American troops while most U.N. peacekeeping operations prohibit any one country from having more than a third of its soldiers.

The proposed resolution would broaden the duties for the U.N. force such as assuring public order, training and modernising the Haitian Armed Forces and police and conducting new legislative elections called by a newly installed government.

To assure passage, the U.S. undersecretary of state, Peter Tarnoff, is visiting Brazil and Argentina this week. Argentina so far has approved of the resolution but Brazil, the largest country in South America, has reservations about the first U.N.-approval of an invasion in the Western hemisphere.

China, with veto power on the Council, also has not yet indicated how it would vote. Russia will probably support the venture as a deal for getting U.S. approval of its peacekeepers in Georgia despite Council misgivings about the political motives of Moscow's troops.



Haitians picked up at sea wait to be driven to the customs dock in Port Au Prince as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Valiant returned 219 Haitians from Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (AFP photo)

## Gambia unveils military-civil government

BANJUL (R) — Gambia's new military ruler, Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, unveiled a 15-member government Tuesday made up almost equally of soldiers and civilians.

The non-military members were mostly civil servants under President Sir Dawda Jawara, who was toppled in a

weekend coup and has since fled to neighbouring Senegal.

An official statement named Lt. Jammeh president and put four other lieutenants earlier named as cabinet members in key posts.

It said Sena Sabally was vice president; Edward Singateh, minister of defence; Sadiqoo Hydara, interior

minister and Yankuba Touray, minister of local government.

A Gambian journalist who knows Lt. Singateh well said he was a graduate of the United States military training school at Fort Benning and described him as "well educated and well-balanced."

## Topless women OK; topless men to be fined

SAINT-RAPHAEL, France (R) — The mayor of this popular French Riviera resort where bare-breasted women are a common sight on the beach has decided to crack down on men walking about topless in the town's streets. Charles Omede told French television the sight of men walking the town's picturesque streets topless, shirtless, in shorts or in bathing suits was tasteless. Offenders would from now on be fined up to 200 francs (\$37), he said.

## 'AIDS-infected' needle used in holdup

BESANCON, France (AFP) — A grocer handed over his takings after a young man threatened him with what he said was an AIDS-infected hypodermic, police said Monday. The grocer discovered the young man rummaging in the back of his shop, but the attacker brandished the needle, demanding the day's takings. The grocer handed over 10,000 francs (\$1,900), police said.

## Peru's tallest man takes petite bride

LIMA (R) — Peru's tallest man married a 23-year-old woman who barely reaches his waist, local television reported Monday. Margarito Machacay, who is 7-foot-4 (2.23 metres) tall, walked down the aisle over the weekend with Marlene Ramos, a petite bride of 4-foot-9 (1.44 metres), the television report said. "I am two months pregnant and the doctors say the child is well developed," a beaming Mr. Ramos told reporters who arrived to cover the event in the small jungle city of Tingo Maria, 360 kilometres north-east of Lima. Mr. Machacay's stature caused problems on the way to the municipal office where the wedding took place since he could not fit into the nuptial car. "It was impossible to make a 2-inch-wide (5 cm) wedding ring," a jeweller in Tingo Maria told Lima's Channel 2 Television.

## Bobbitt denies beating girlfriend

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (R) — John Wayne Bobbitt, the man whose penis was sliced off by his wife last year, pleaded not guilty at a court hearing to a charge of battering his former girlfriend. Mr. Bobbitt, 27, said at his arraignment he was "absolutely 100 per cent not guilty" of battering 21-year-old former topless dancer Kristina Elliott. Those were the words that foothill legend O.J. Simpson used Friday in pleading not guilty to murdering his ex-wife and a male friend. Mr. Bobbitt told reporters he chose the words because when he was growing up in Buffalo, New York, Simpson, then the Buffalo Bills' running back, was his hero. Justice of the Peace Bill Jansen set a Sept. 28 trial date for Mr. Bobbitt, who is alleged to have beaten Ms. Elliott during an altercation in the apartment they shared on July 12. Mr. Bobbitt is due back in municipal court Wednesday when chief deputy city attorney will ask that bail set after the first alleged beating incident, on May 6, be revoked because of the July incident. He faces up to a year in jail if convicted on both battery charges. Mr. Bobbitt and his ex-wife, Lorena, made headlines last year when she was accused of cutting his penis off and throwing it away. It was found and successfully reattached. Last Jan. 21, a Virginia jury found his former wife innocent of the charge of "malicious wounding" by reason of temporary insanity.

## McCartney slams Gillette over animal tests

BOSTON (R) — British rock star Paul McCartney has sent back his razor, shaving cream and other products to the Gillette company to protest the manufacturer's use of animals in product testing. In a letter to Gillette's chief executive, Alfred Zeien, the former Beatle said he was sending back all Gillette products in his home and demanded a refund, which he said he would donate to the animal rights group People For The Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA. "As a friend of animals, I am not only unsatisfied but outraged," McCartney said.

## Chechen tank unit sides with opposition — report

MOSCOW (AFP) — A key army tank unit has withdrawn its support for Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and offered to help opposition forces oust him if needed, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Opposition leaders in Chechnya meanwhile asked Russia to recognise them as the new authority in the tiny breakaway republic in the Caucasus and appealed to President Boris Yeltsin to guarantee stability there, the news agency said.

The Shalinski Tank Regiment, which forms the core of the Chechen Armed Forces, said it would pose "no obstacle" to the opposition seizing power from Mr. Dudayev and said it "will support" if needed," the report said.

ITAR-TASS, quoting well-informed sources, said opposition forces were now in control of most of Chechnya with the exception of Mr. Dudayev's residence in the capital, Grozny, and an area immediately surrounding it.

The Chechen opposition asked Moscow to recognise its "provisional council" led by Umar Avturkhanov, the head of the Nadterechni regional administration, as the "only legitimate organ of power in Chechnya," ITAR-TASS said.

The council would run the republic until general elections could be organised, the report said.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force bomber pilot, was elected in October 1991 and at that time unilaterally declared Chechnya's independence from the Russian Federation.

Moscow never recognised Chechnya's independence, but the republic's status within the Russian Federation has remained hazy after Mr. Yeltsin was forced by political opposition in 1992 to withdraw troops he had deployed there in an effort to regain control over Chechnya.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said Monday the Russian leader was "closely watching" developments in Chechnya and said the Kremlin had received numerous reports of human rights violations there in recent weeks.

Clashes last month between forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev and opposition paramilitary units led by Russian Lt. Gen. Alexander Lebed, according to opposition sources, while the government claimed no more than 10 had died in the fighting.

Despite mounting pressure from the opposition, Mr. Dudayev appeared determined to hold on to power and Monday announced that he would serve out his term, due to end in October 1995, when presidential elections would be held.

Mr. Dudayev, who was elected with 85 per cent of the vote, said he had not decided whether he would be a candidate in the next elections, ITAR-TASS reported.

Elsewhere, the Interfax News Agency said armed opponents to Mr. Dudayev had secured a stronghold in the town of Argun, on the river of the same name, to the east of the Chechen capital Grozny.



Three Spanish UNPROFOR troops try to fix a Croatian boy's tricycle in Medjugorje near the Spanish battalion's base. The Spaniards' sector includes Mostar, divided between Croats and Bosnian Muslims, where the European Union's administrator was inaugurated Saturday for a two-year mandate to rebuild the ancient city (AFP photo)

## Russia slams U.N. Bosnia proposal

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia poured cold water on Tuesday on a proposal by Secretary General Boutros Ghali that U.N. troops should be pulled out of former Yugoslavia to make way for a force proposed by the big powers.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on a visit to Belgrade that only U.N. soldiers should act as peacekeepers and NATO was not a suitable replacement for the 35,000-strong U.N. force.

In Sarajevo, the Bosnian government said Dr. Ghali's proposal would harm negotiations on a peace plan put forward by an international "contact group."

"It's quite surprising because in a way it prejudices the contact group decisions," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters.

The United Nations meanwhile reported a heavy exchange of artillery and mortar fire across the Serb-Muslim front line northwest of Maglaj in Bosnia, with 160 rounds recorded as landing in an hour.

The United Nations accused the Serbs of restricting its ability to investigate Serb violations of the U.N.-imposed heavy weapons exclusion zone around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde Monday.

Gen. Grachev arrived in Belgrade accompanied by Russian special envoy Vitaly Churkin amid intense diplomatic efforts to persuade the Bosnian Serbs to reverse their rejection of the latest international peace plan.

The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said it understood Gen. Grachev would propose to the Serbs that a Russian peacekeeping contingent be deployed around

the northern Bosnian town of Brcko.

Brcko straddles an important Serb supply route whose status is of concern to the Serbs in the event of a division of Bosnia along the lines proposed by the five-power contact group.

The peace plan, which the Serbs have so far rejected, awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat alliance and the rest to the Serbs, who now hold 49 per cent.

The "northern corridor", which runs through a bottleneck around Brcko, links Sarajevo with Serb-held territory in western Bosnia and Croatia.

Gen. Grachev also said he wanted to give Russia's reaction to Dr. Ghali's suggestion that the U.N. force should be pulled out whether a peace settlement is reached or not.

"I came here to convey Russia's stand on Dr. Ghali's statement that UNPROFOR should be replaced by NATO. The U.N. Security Council is now in a state of shock," Gen. Grachev told reporters.

"NATO is not a peacekeeping organisation. Only UNPROFOR can fulfill the mission in Bosnia."

Dr. Ghali suggested Monday in a letter to the Security Council that only major powers such as the United States, not the lightly armed and dangerously exposed U.N. force, could enforce a peace deal.

Dr. Ghali did not mention NATO in his letter, but he said the contact group — the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — should provide forces to back up their peace proposals.

Of the contact group, only Russia is not a NATO member.

Gen. Grachev was scheduled to hold talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav army commanders and later with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb Army Commander Ratko Mladic.

He said he would also visit Russian U.N. peacekeeping troops in former Yugoslavia.

In Sarajevo, a senior U.N. official gave a warning that U.N. operations in key areas of Bosnia could grind to a halt unless a dispute over Serb prisoners and Muslim missing persons was resolved in the next few days.

The Serbs have threatened to block U.N. movements on their territory unless the Muslims release a group of Serb prisoners. The Muslims say they will not do so until the Serbs account for a group of Muslims who disappeared after being abducted by the Serbs two years ago.

"We are making no progress on this problem and it is threatening to stop everything," Gen. Mladic says if there is no solution soon he will halt all cooperation with the United Nations," Viktor Andrejev, U.N. head of civil affairs in Bosnia, told Reuters.

Meanwhile two French soldiers, who went over to the Serbs while serving with the UNPROFOR in Bosnia, late Monday returned voluntarily to their unit, U.N. headquarters there said.

The two French marines, who went "absent without leave", had gone to join the Bosnian Serb army.

They were to be detained for their own safety and returned to France by the first possible plane. The military will punish them for going absent without leave.

## Modernised Labour will appeal to 'the broad majority' — Blair

LONDON (AFP) — Newly-elected British opposition leader Tony Blair gave a stark warning of failure Tuesday if his Labour Party tried to turn the clock back to the socialist dogma of old.

In the wide-ranging interview with the pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph, he said he had a mandate to shed socialist dogma that had kept Labour out of government.

"I am keen to argue on the Labour Party agenda, and not to believe our purpose in coming into government is to switch the clock back 15 years," he said. "We won't succeed if we do."

"I am not going to run the Labour Party for this interest group or that pressure group. It is the broad majority of British people out there who want the country run for them. That is what I will do," he said.

Emphasising the need for continued modernisation, he said: "There was a point in the 1980s when we went badly wrong and there is no harm in admitting that. The change

begun by (former Labour leader) Neil Kinnock and continued by John Smith was right."

He acknowledged Labour would have to come to terms with many changes made by the Tories since 1979.

"Ballots before strikes and for union elections, restrictions on mass and flying pickets — those things are here to stay," he said.

He also repeated his commitment to Europe, and confirmed Labour would introduce legislation for a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly "as a first-year (in government) commitment", and would reform the House of Lords.

The paper considered there were echoes of the radicalism of former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Mr. Blair's pledge that the Labour Party would have to reform the welfare state to ensure that its purpose was "to get people off dependency rather than keep them on."

Challenged on difficulties a sceptical electorate might

present him over his pro-European views, Mr. Blair said: "I am a committed European and I believe our future lies with Europe."

"I would like to see us being more ready to take on and criticise those aspects of European policy that are plainly contrary to the interest of British and European people, such as the Common Agricultural Policy which imposes huge costs on the consumer."

He added: "We want to develop a policy that keeps us as committed Europeans, working for European co-operation in an intelligent way which realises that the path of the co-operation may have to change because of events."

Mr. Blair came out well ahead of Prime Minister John Major as Britain's preferred choice for premier in a weekend poll by the paper's stablemate the Sunday Telegraph, and the Labour Party also enjoys a comfortable lead over the ruling Tories in opinion polls, although elections are two years away.

## U.S. wants new nuclear test ban treaty guidelines by September

GENEVA (AFP) — The United States wants the basis of a treaty banning all nuclear testing to be drawn up by Sept. 7, U.S. ambassador to the Geneva disarmament conference Stephen Ledogar said Monday.

Ledogar said it was important to compose a text and move on from theories and generalisations.

The conference, whose members have been engaged in talks on and off since the start of the year on concluding a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), reopened their discussions Monday, with the current session due to go through to Sept. 7.

The rapid conclusion of a CTBT treaty is the "number one priority in multilateral arms control negotiations" for the U.S. administration of President Bill Clinton, Mr. Ledogar stressed.

"We've received our marching orders," he continued. "The president has said he wants the treaty finished as soon as possible."

Mr. Ledogar said Washington was looking for a "broad working outline of the comprehensive test ban treaty... a rolling text composed of all preliminary texts which are progressively 'rolled' into a draft final treaty."

Diplomatic sources said the aim was to come up with a basic treaty framework by the end of the current conference session.

According to Mr. Ledogar, the two main difficulties in the talks surround technical details of measures used to verify a future treaty and also the political will of participating states to get to work on the project quickly.

The United States fears there exists a risk of increased global nuclear proliferation and wants to push on with compiling a treaty.

That desire is underpinned by the knowledge Washington will be able to keep on modernising its nuclear arsenal via laboratory simulations, a technique in which the United States leads the field.

With the exception of China, which recently held nuclear tests, the other main nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain and France — have decreed a testing moratorium.

France is in a difficult position on the issue, with President Francois Mitterrand, who has the final say on French defence matters, in favour of extending the moratorium. However, his neo-liberal government wants to see a return to test-

ing.

French military experts have tried hard to move ahead in the field of simulated tests, but believe they will need to have recourse to real testing to ensure they have not made any mistakes.

China, seemingly behind in the simulation stakes, appears not to favour a complete ban on tests, according to diplomats.

Mr. Ledogar said the atmosphere at talks early next year to extend the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) would be "more conducive to a broad agreement to extend indefinitely and unconditionally the NPT if substantial progress has been made by then on a test ban."

The NPT, which came into force in 1970, officially runs for 25 years, and will thus require extension next year.

The treaty has been signed by almost 150 countries, including North Korea, Iraq and Libya. China has signed but never ratified the document, while India, Pakistan and Israel have remained outside the accord's jurisdiction.

The treaty forbids nuclear powers to acquire nuclear weapons and forbids nuclear powers from passing them on.

## Prayer for peace as Sri Lankan town prepares for cliff-hanger polls

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka (AFP) — Hindu devotees trek through security check posts to an eighth-century temple in this battle-scarred port town to offer prayers as they face an election virtually under the gun.

Minority Tamils, who are mostly followers of Hinduism, fear that campaigning for the Aug. 16 general elections may re-open old wounds in this northeastern port town, which has seen bitter inter-communal violence.

Trincomalee, 260 kilometres from the capital Colombo, was better known as a British staging post during World War I and prior to that as a strategic sea port for Dutch and Portuguese colo-

nial rulers.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who are fighting for a separate state called Eelam, want to turn this town with one of the best natural harbours in the world into their capital city. The majority Sinhalese oppose separation.

At every street corner here, heavily armed police examine identity cards and carry out body searches of men, women and children. Vehicles going in and out are searched for weapons and explosives.

The top police official here, Superintendent Ananda Hettiarachi, says the checks must continue to maintain the fragile peace and ensure that Tamil Tiger

guerrillas do not infiltrate the town.

"Tigers have not been able to do anything here for the past two years, partly because of our checks and also because people no longer support them," Mr. Hettiarachi said.

However, he said there were several remote villages where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were still active and may intimidate Tamils and prevent them from voting. Some 183,000 men and women here are eligible to vote.

He said security will be further tightened ahead of next month's parliamentary polls, at which Trincomalee will elect four MPs out of the 225 seats in the Legislative

Assembly.

Political analysts expect minority parties to play a crucial role in a future government as they predict a close battle between the main opposition People's Alliance (PA) and the ruling United National Party (UNP).

Tamil residents fear that with the campaign heating up, tensions too may surface between the Sinhalese, Tamils and the Muslims, who are in almost equal strength here.

Communal differences widened after Tamil militants butchered hundreds of Sinhalese and Muslim villagers, drawing retaliatory attacks in the mid-1980s and early 1990s.

"With election slogans ab-

out Eelam, it may re-open old wounds," (Tamil) People are nervous," said M.K. Sellarajah, 65, a prominent Tamil resident, who is also the chief custodian of the Trikoneswaram Kovil, or temple.

The historic Hindu shrine, located inside the Portuguese-built Fort Frederick, has been a symbol of Tamil resilience. The Portuguese who arrived here in 1624 destroyed the temple, but it was re-built about 30 years ago.

Part of the rituals are conducted by a priest perched on an unprotected cliff-edge with a drop of 360 feet (110 metres) into the Indian Ocean.

"Even during the period of

worst violence here, I managed to bring priests up to the temple and perform our poojas (rituals)," Sellarajah said. The temple is located at the northeastern-most tip of Fort Frederick, which is now an army base.

Sinhalese, who are mainly Buddhists, venerate Hindu temples, providing a common bond in an otherwise ethnically divided society.

Rolling party candidate Ranjini Senasinghe says the main campaign issues for them are peace and development.

"The Trincomalee Tamils don't want Eelam," said Senasinghe, who is a member of the majority Sinhalese community. "They want only a peaceful society."

WORLD NEWS  
JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1994  
Press  
ROME (AFP)  
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BANGKOK (R)  
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**A woman comforts her husband as he lies being fed glucose solution by intravenous drip in a refugee camp north of Goma. The cholera epidemic continued in Goma (AFP photo)**



# Jordan Times

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## A much stronger Jordan

**FOLLOWING THE** proclamation of the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel, the Kingdom emerges much stronger and more confident than before. In a region that has seen many wars in the past 40 years, not only between the Arabs and Israel but also among Arabs themselves, a Jordan in peace with its most powerful neighbour is certainly stronger than one at war with it.

During the past decade, Jordan saw the edifice of a confident post-1970 Arab order crumble down. The fall started with Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the driving of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of that country. The fall of oil prices came next. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war that led to a schism still unhealed in Arab ranks. In the process, Jordan lost Iraq as a formidable trade partner, the Gulf states as a financial aid source, and the U.S. as a long time friend and ally.

And in 1993, Jordan was taken by surprise by the deal made between the PLO and Israel in Oslo.

Jordan found itself in the first days of 1994 left with a few friends and more enemies.

The threats were coming from all directions: The American blockade of Aqaba, Saudi estrangement, lack of Arab solidarity, scarcity of funds, obsolete army equipment and Israeli pressure. And thus Jordan had to move and attempt to quell all the threats.

Monday's Washington Declaration is not an instant panacea. It surely shattered the aspirations of those who hoped Jordan was bound to disintegrate and were positioning themselves to reap the spoils. The Washington Declaration might not help heal the rift in the Arab World, but it certainly sends strong signals to many capitals in the region that Jordan is a viable state, a major player and a reliable partner in the emerging post-Cold War Middle East regional order.

With its most volatile borders recognised and its role in the peace process reassessed, Jordan hopes that its decades-old quest for peace and its moderate and tolerant posture will at last bring peace and prosperity to its people and all the peoples of the region.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE WASHINGTON declaration is not the end of the road but it serves as a first step on an arduous road towards regaining Jordan's legitimate rights, said Al Rai Arabic daily Tuesday. Commenting on the summit meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. president, the paper said that it was an occasion to declare the end of belligerency and end the no-war-no-peace situation that lasted for ages. The Washington declaration marks a new era and a new beginning for active work on the road to peace and a commitment on both sides to work hard to achieve the aspirations of the people in the Middle East region, the paper added. While admitting that times have changed and that new means other than conflict are being sought to regain national rights, the paper said one cannot be carried away by unjustified optimism and at the same time should not resign himself to pessimism. One should wait for the final outcome, said the paper. We welcome peace that will restore our rights, end aggression and establish security and stability in the region and open the door for future prosperity and progress, added the paper. But, the paper said, the road to attain the national aspirations is still long and King Hussein's leadership and wise policies coupled with a strong national unity are essential ingredients to help the Kingdom achieve its objectives.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour addressed the one hour sit-in staged by heads and supporters of opposition parties near the Grand Hussein Mosque downtown Amman and said that these parties' condemnation of the Washington summit meeting was fruitless and would soon be forgotten. Mohammad Subeishi said that the parties have failed to present an alternative to a meeting with the Israelis to regain the lost territory and the other rights. While admitting that the opposition groups have resorted to very democratic means to express their views and sought to present a symbolic gesture in opposition to the Washington meeting, rather than organising a huge rally that would further inflame sentiments, the writer said that it was quite possible and necessary for the heads of these parties to issue a statement with an alternative plan to convince the public of their views. The writer said that the one hour sit-in was deemed necessary by the opposition parties whose activities, charged the writer, are being totally ignored by the official information services.

## Washington Watch

# American- Jewish community and Christian fundamentalism

By Dr. James Zogby

THE INCREASINGLY powerful role played by the Christian fundamentalist movement in the Republican Party poses a serious problem for the organised Jewish community in the U.S. During the past month this issue has stirred up a vigorous public debate within the organised Jewish community. While the debate was first played out in the Jewish press, it has recently made its way into the opinion pages of mainstream U.S. press.

For at least the past two decades, American-Jews have been divided over their view of Christian fundamentalism. Liberal Jews were repulsed by the "fanaticism of the true believers." They were concerned not only about the intolerance of the movement in its rejection of the liberal social agenda espoused by a majority of the Jewish community, but also by the claim of many fundamentalist Christians that only believers in Jesus Christ would be saved by God.

So, as liberal Jews led the fight for maintaining the separation between Church and State (including the effort to keep prayer out of public schools and removing Christian symbols from publicly owned property), they ran up against those Christian groups which would argue that religion is an important part of public life.

On the other side were those pro-Israel strategists who, as early as the 1970s, saw right wing Christians as an ally in their struggle against the Arabs. Many Christian fundamentalists were virulently anti-Communist, and saw Arabs as surrogates of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

But belief in the state of Israel was also for many fundamentalists a matter of theology. Made increasingly popular by the Reverend Pat Robertson in the 1980s, this belief taught that the Old Testament prophecies were destined to be replayed in the modern world, leading to the Day of Judgement and the Final Battle of Armageddon as proclaimed in the New Testament.

According to this school of thought, the ingathering of the Jews into Israel in 1948 was part of God's plan to bring on the Final Battle, in which the forces of good (which fundamentalist Christians see as the U.S. and its allies) would confront the forces of evil (correspondingly seen as the Soviet Union and its allies — Arabs and Muslims). This battle would lead to the destruction of the Earth, which for this theology is a necessity before Jesus can return to save "the select, the believers."

This Christian fundamentalist view maintained that, although all Jews must ultimately be converted to Christianity in order to fulfill the prophecies, Israel must be supported at all costs.

It was this last belief which led several right-wing Jewish strategists to cultivate fundamentalist Christian support to shore up their political power in the U.S. They arranged trips for fundamentalist leaders to visit Israel and meetings for them with Israeli government officials. Jewish groups also helped arrange for these fundamentalist Christian groups to open offices in Israel and even a Christian television station in South Lebanon. In return, the Christian fundamentalists supported the right-wing Jewish pro-Israel agenda in the U.S.

Many of these right wing Jewish strategists formed the

backbone of the neoconservative movement that provided quite a number of foreign policy experts to the Reagan administration in the 1980s. It was they who formed the unholy alliance of right-wing Jews and Christian fundamentalist supporters of Israel within the Republican Party.

The intensity and success of this relationship can be best understood by the example of 1988, when Arab-Americans took pro-Arab and balanced Middle East peace process resolutions to Democratic Party state conventions across the U.S. A coalition was formed of Arab-Americans, progressive Jews, African-Americans and peace activists. In every state where this coalition entered Democratic conventions, they won. And, for the first time, this same coalition succeeded in getting the issue of Palestinian statehood debated at the Democratic National Convention.

On the other hand, the power of the neo-conservative and Christian fundamentalist alliance was so strong on the Republican side that, in 1988, Arab-Americans were unable to win or even secure a debate on any Middle East platform language in any state. Even in 1992, when Arab-Americans sought to change the very strong pro-Israel language of the Republican Party by adding language supportive of the President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, every attempt was defeated by this right wing alliance.

So, today, as liberal Democrats, including many Jewish Democrats have begun a campaign to warn about the strong influence of the Christian right in the Republican Party, it is not surprising that neo-conservative Jews have rushed to the defence of their right-wing Christian Republican allies. This has set off a firestorm of debate within the Jewish community.

Compounding this debate is a recently published report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), "The Religious Right: Assault on Tolerance and Pluralism in America," a study of the growing influence of the Christian fundamentalist movement. While the ADL steadfastly maintains that their report is non-partisan and should not be confused with the Democratic campaign against the Christian right, the timing of its release has fanned the flames of debate in the Jewish community.

The sides in this debate currently line up something like this: On the one side are liberal Jewish organisations such as the American-Jewish Committee and the American-Jewish Congress and moderate Jewish Republicans like Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). On the other side are Likud-supporting groups such as Americans for a Safe Israel (ASI) and former Reagan and Bush administration officials like former Reagan Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams and Vice President Quayle's former Chief of Staff William Kristol.

The role of the ADL in the midst of this dispute is, at best, confusing. A neo-liberal civil rights organisation, the ADL has moved to the right, finding "anti-Semitism" in every liberal and left-wing group in the U.S. — African-Americans, the liberal press, the mainstream Protestant National Council of Churches, peace organisations and all

Arab-American groups. It is the ADL which is responsible for creating the equation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitism).

The liberal side warns that the Christian fundamentalists are "anti-pluralist and intolerant," and that their growing influence threatens the liberal social agenda on issues like separation of church and state, abortion rights and the rights of minorities including women and homosexuals. "The of minorities including women and homosexuals," claims Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "When pluralism is challenged, most of us in the Jewish community are going to stand up and say 'no'." Gutow recognises the value of their support for Israel. Mr. Gutow says that "most Jews are understandably mistrustful of the radical right."

The conservative Jewish response is straight-forward. The spokesperson of ASI said "the greatest friends of the state of Israel has in America are the Christian conservatives" and he goes on to cite that "conservative Christians and Orthodox Jews share beliefs on many social and moral issues."

Elliot Abrams goes further, accusing many in his community of holding a "deep-seated fear of Christian Evangelical groups" that he says is a form of bigotry. William Kristol adds "it is just so short-sighted and self-destructive for a Jewish organisation like the ADL to unjustly and gratuitously alienate Christian conservatives."

While the debate rages on in the Jewish community over the issue itself, and over the ADL report, the Republican Party leadership has apparently decided not to distance itself from the Christian right — a powerful bloc of votes which the Republicans feel are central to their electoral ambitions of 1994 and 1996. At the same time, the party leaders and 1996 presidential hopefuls are attempting to reach out to the broader Jewish community in an effort not to lose their votes, as they seek to win upcoming elections.

The national chairman of the Republican Party Haley Barbour, characterised the attack on Christian fundamentalists as "without doubt an organised political strategy. As a cynical organised campaign of Christian bashing." He then went on to appeal to Jewish voters saying that he believed that Republicans "deserve more than (the) 15 per cent" of the Jewish vote that George Bush won in 1992 (recalling that, as a result of neo-conservative support, Ronald Reagan won 35 per cent of the Jewish vote in 1988).

Mr. Barbour went on to pledge strong Republican support for Israel, saying, "I don't think there can be any question that Jerusalem should remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty." The Republican Party chairman also cited that "if you look at most Republicans, you'll see overwhelming support for foreign aid to Israel."

The Democrats have succeeded in creating a national debate over the role that the Christian right wing plays in the Republican Party. But while the expected debate between Democrats and Republicans may now be subsiding, the debate within the Jewish community seems to be far from over. The bottom line to this debate is simple: Is support for right wing Israel policy more important to the Jewish community than the social agenda of pluralism, tolerance and liberalism they have long espoused?

## Jordan on throes of transformation

(Continued from page 1)

the Washington Declaration took place Monday, that the English term for "belligerency" existed in neither Arab nor Hebrew, indicating that a difference therefore hardly existed to warrant trouble over the issue. And it was that particular sentence, indeed, that saw him receiving two standing ovations at the White House and Capitol Hill, signalling the inevitability of all-around agreement by the Jordanians, Americans and Israelis.

Warren Christopher, the usually conservative and right-tipped U.S. Secretary of State, sounded so elated and upbeat about the event that he told a television interviewer that Jordan's economy would witness a transformation process to the next couple of years. President Clinton had earlier called the King a "hero," who deserved total support from the American people.

On the political level, Jordan has achieved not only a breakthrough in asserting its indispensable role in the emerging regional order, whether in terms of Amman's relationship with Saudi Arabia (Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, absent himself from Washington over the past few days) or in terms of renewing the Kingdom's traditionally close ties with the U.S.

Jordan did also make gains that would see Jordanians through the difficult economic period that started in the early eighties, deepened in the second half of that decade and continued during the Gulf crisis and war.

Even in the Washington Declaration with Israel, the Jordanians made sure that the agreements reached would work to this country's benefit, preserving the holy Islamic place to Jerusalem being the best example there. Besides, there are elements in the agreements that would enable Jordan to maintain and strengthen its geopolitical interests in the region as a whole.

Senior Jordanian officials insist that no undue concessions were made to the Israelis through signing the Washington Declaration. Israel was basically after ending its isolation in the

region, and Jordan did not do any more than the Palestinians did on Sept. 13 last year or what the Syrians would do (upon reaching an agreement on the Golan Heights) towards that goal. Besides, a senior official says, what is so new about ending the state of war (with the Jewish state)?

"Israel has finally agreed to accept Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, having had posed a high threat to them for so long before. Who is winning there then? Who had the greater military capability to threaten the other before, if I may ask."

The King, in his joint conference with President Clinton and Mr. Rabin after addressing Congress on Tuesday, said Jordan was alerted to the possibility of terrorist attacks like those waged in London yesterday and in Argentina last week.

"But in the final analysis," said a senior Jordanian official, "the threat of violence cannot stop a country, especially like ours, from seizing the right moment and moving forward towards a better and more secure future."

## Deputies reaffirm support

(Continued from page 1)

but has always been an active participant in the decision-making process.

Eight leftist and Islamic parties in addition to the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel expressed dissatisfaction with the agreements reached between Jordan and Israel saying that this will have negative consequences on Jordan's security and stability.

In a statement issued Tuesday, they said the agreements will have "negative consequences on our security and stability in Jordan and that of the entire Arab and Muslim worlds."

The statement said the government's decisions were not democratic "since they were taken without referring to the Jordanian people nor to their representatives in Parliament or to the political parties."

The statement said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war between Jordan and Israel at a time when Israel is still "occupying our land and stealing our water."

Moreover, the declaration gave Israel new concessions, including security coordination, joint economic projects and a share of Jordanian waters, including the Yarmouk River water. It also ignored the refugee problems," the statement said.

It added that Jordan had accepted Israeli claims to religious sovereignty of the holy places, abandoned national and Islamic sovereignty over these places, and ignored Palestinian sovereignty.

## Sharaa: No 'real' peace without Syria

(Continued from page 1)

But it criticised Jordan and claimed there was much popular and political opposition in the Kingdom to the agreement.

An Iraqi newspaper said the U.S. is committing a mistake by "forcing" Arab countries to make peace with Israel.

"America is committing the craziest mistake ... imposing borders and treaties," the newspaper Babel said in a front-page editorial on the Jordan-Israel accord.

Babel said that any deal with the "wicked Zionist entity" would eventually run contrary to the course of history.

"It is history not geography or politics which decides the path of events," it said.

Hardline Palestinian groups said the Jordan-Israel summit will not end war in the Middle East.

Mooday was "another black day to add to all the others in the history of Jordan," the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said.

It said the summit was "another failure for the Arabs."

"Nobody will be able to put an end to the state of

## Jordan says Jerusalem role unpoliticised

(Continued from page 1)

leaders for support on the Palestinian claim to Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat contacted Arab leaders in a bid to rally support behind his objection to Israel's acknowledgement of Jordanian rights over Muslim sites in Jerusalem.

He telephoned King Hassan of Morocco, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister, a Palestinian official told AFP.

Mr. Arafat initially welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian declaration ending 46 years of war.

But the Palestinian authority's news agency Wafa later put out a statement in Gaza denouncing the declaration on Jordanian rights in the holy city.

"Any attempt to exclude the Palestinian leadership and Yasser Arafat in particular from the negotiations on Jerusalem can only bring the peace process," said Sufian Abu Zeida, a Gaza City official of Mr. Arafat's Fateh group.

Mr. Rabin on Tuesday deflected the recognition state-

## Hamas offers to trade Israeli's body for leaders

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) offered Tuesday to exchange the corpse of an Israeli soldier kidnapped in 1989 for three jailed Muslim fundamentalist leaders.

The fundamentalists issued a statement giving Israel until Friday evening to respond to the first such offer by Hamas.

Soldier Ilan Saadon was abducted as he hitch-hiked on May 3, 1989, murdered and his corpse buried somewhere on the strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility but said those who knew where he was buried had gone into exile.

"We declare our readiness to give back the body of Israeli soldiers Ilan Saadon who was kidnapped and killed by one of our armed units in 1989 in return for the release of Hamas leaders, including Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Abdul Karim in Obeid and Mustafa Dirani," the statement said.

It also called for the release of "some detainees from other Palestinian factions."

Sheikh Yassin, who founded Hamas in December 1987, was arrested in a major 1989 crackdown shortly after Saadon and another Israeli soldier were killed. He was jailed for life in October 1991 for murder.

Sheikh Yassin is blind in the right eye, almost deaf, paralysed to both legs and reportedly in poor general health.

Senior Shiite cleric Obeid was seized from his South Lebanon home by Israeli commands in July 1989. Israel also kidnapped Mr. Dirani, a Lebanese fundamentalist chief.



By Dr. James Zoghbi

# King: Jordan has always sought a bold peace in the Mideast

The following is the address to the joint session of U.S. Congress that His Majesty King Hussein made July 26, 1994 in Washington D.C.

IT IS an honour for me to stand before you, the representatives of the great American nation, on this historic occasion.

We have now become partners in shaping the future of all our peoples. We seek for them a future of peace, stability and security, the prospects for which are growing before our eyes. It is a heartwarming sight for those of us who have continuously pursued this goal throughout our lives.

We in Jordan have always sought a bold peace. We have been conscious of our responsibilities towards the coming generations to ensure that they will have the certainty of leading a dignified and fulfilled life. We have sought a peace that can harness their creative energies, to allow them to realise their true potential and build their future with confidence, devoid of fear and uncertainty.

None of this can be achieved without establishing a direct dialogue at the highest level of leadership. This meeting in Washington at the invitation of President Clinton represents the beginning of a new phase in our common journey towards peace between Jordan and Israel. It is a milestone on the road towards comprehensive peace in our region.

This meeting was preceded by a trilateral Jordanian-American-Israeli meeting at which my brother, Crown Prince Hassan, represented myself and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres represented Israel. The trilateral working group was established under an agreement completed at that meeting hosted by President Clinton at the White House in October 1993.

Following my recent visit to the United States, in light of the status of negotiations, I decided to share with my people the realities affecting our search for peace. In a meeting with members of our Parliament, I addressed the entire Jordanian nation. I have been rewarded by their approval and support.

Their expression of confidence has always been the foremost consideration in my life. All of Jordan is here with me today.

We also remember today the three generations of gallant Jordanians and so many others who sacrificed themselves for the cause of Palestine. Every household in Jordan has sent a son to answer the Arab call. Many have not returned. Their sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today.

My family has also paid a heavy price. My great grandfather, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt for freedom, independence and unity, lies buried next to the blessed Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. I was by the side of my grandfather, King Abdullah, at the doors of Al Aqsa Mosque when he was martyred. He was a man of peace who gave his life for this ideal. I have pledged my life to fulfilling his dream. He too is here today.

Our meeting now represents a revolt against all that is unnatural. It is unnatural not to have direct and open meetings between our respective officials and their leaders, in order to grapple with all aspects of the conflict, and God willing, to resolve them. It is unnatural not to wish to bridge this gulf, across which we have all paid a shattering toll in blood and tears. The waste of our youth and the grief of our forefathers. We have suffered this loss together and it will leave its impact on all of us far into the future.

The two Semitic peoples, the Arabs and the Jews, have endured bitter trials and tribulations during the journey of history. Let us resolve to end this suffering forever and to fulfill our responsibilities as leaders of our peoples, and our duty as human beings towards mankind.

I come before you today fully conscious of the need to secure a peace for all the children of Abraham. Our land is the birthplace of the divine faiths and the cradle of their heavenly messages to all humanity.

I also come before you today as a soldier who seeks to bear arms solely in the defence of his homeland, a man who understands the fears of his neighbours, and who wishes only to live in peace with them, a man who wishes to secure democracy, political pluralism and human rights for his nation.

I come before you today encouraged in the knowledge that the prime minister of Israel and his government have responded to the call for peace. They have recognised the Palestinian people and their rights, and are negotiating with their chosen leadership in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

For our part we will never forget Palestine, not for a moment. We in Jordan were the first to shoulder our responsibility, and we were the most adversely affected by the legacy of the Palestinian tragedy.

And still our people in Jordan remain one united family, irrespective of their origins, sharing equality, free to choose their political future and destiny.

My religious faith demands that sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem reside with God and God alone. Dialogue between the faiths should be strengthened; religious sovereignty should be accorded to all believers of the three Abrahamic faiths, in accordance with their religions. In this way, Jerusalem will become the symbol of peace and its embodiment, as it must be for both Palestinians and Israelis when their negotiations determine the final status of Arah East Jerusalem.

I come before you today fully confident that progress will be made on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of the peace process, and towards the achievement of comprehensive peace.

Mr. Speaker, the state of war between Israel and Jordan is over. We have accepted UNSCR 338 which calls for negotiations between the parties concerned, under appropriate auspices, to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

We have accepted UNSCR 242, which sought acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

I want to reaffirm, without any reservation, that we, together with the other parties concerned, have exercised our sovereign right to make peace. We are moving forward and tackling, one by one, all the problems listed in our common agenda. We have great faith in our joint progress towards the ultimate goal, the culmination of all our efforts, a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

In this, we take courage from the words of God, in his Holy Book, the Koran: "Then if they should be inclined to make peace, do thou incline towards it also, and put thy trust in Allah. Surely, it is he who is all hearing, all-knowing. (The Koran, Chapter 8, Verse 61)."

Mr. Speaker, I value the long friendship between Jordan and the United States, inherited from the era of my grandfather, I have sought over thirty-four years, since the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower, to ensure that it be honest and true.

It has been a friendship built on mutual respect and common interests. I am proud to remind you how we stood shoulder to shoulder during the long years of the cold war.

And now together we share a great hope: to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East.

We believe that an enduring partnership for cooperation and development between Jordan and the United States is essential to the realisation of this dream.

We aim to build a better future under peace; to change the pattern of life for our people from despair and hopelessness to honour and dignity. We want to fashion a new commonwealth of hope on our ancient soil; we want all voices to be heard in shaping a new regional order.

If we are to achieve our aims, all of us must be given the opportunity and the tools to play our part in this historic endeavour. The creative drive of our region has been crippled by the conflict; the healing hand of the international community is now essential.

It should never be forgotten that peace resides ultimately not in the hands of governments, but in the hands of the people. For unless peace can be made real to the men, women and children of the Middle East, the best efforts of negotiators will come to naught.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, I have come before you today to demonstrate that we are ready to open a new era in our relations with Israel with the help and cooperation of this august body the peace we all want can be achieved.

With your help, I am certain that the imbalances between our societies can be remedied and that the sources of frustration and enmity can be eradicated.

It is in this spirit and with these hopes that I share this platform with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

To all of you, and to the American people, I offer my thanks for your kindness, hospitality and for all your support.

May God Bless you all.

WA Assalamu Alaykum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Today we are embarking on a battle which has no dead and no wounded, no blood and no anguish. This is the only battle which is a pleasure to wage ... for peace.

Tomorrow, on the way up to Jerusalem, thousands of flowers will cover the remains of those rusting armoured vehicles, the ones that never made it to the city. Tomorrow, from those silent metal heaps, thousands of flowers will smile to us "Shalom," peace.

In the Bible, our Book of Books, peace is mentioned in its various idioms two hundred and thirty seven times. In the Bible, from which we draw our values and our strength, in the Book of Jeremiah, we find a lamentation for Rachel and Matriarch; it reads:

"Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for their work shall be rewarded, says the Lord."

We will not refrain from weeping for those who are gone. But on this summer day in Washington, far from home, we sense that our work will be rewarded, as the Prophet foretold.

The Jewish tradition calls for a blessing on every new tree, every new fruit, on every new season.

Let me conclude with the ancient Jewish blessing that has been with us, in exile and in Israel, for thousands of years.

"Blessed are You, O Lord, who has preserved us, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach the time."

God, Bless the Peace.

Thank you.

King, Rabin address Congress

(Continued from page 1)

ated applause he drew with his resounding affirmation of Jordan's commitment to peace.

"We want normality and humanity to become the prevailing order," said the King. "What we are witnessing today, God willing, is a progression from a state of war to a state of peace."

"This meeting in Washington at the invitation of President Clinton represents the beginning of a new phase in our common journey towards peace between Jordan and Israel. It is a milestone on the road toward comprehensive peace in our region."

King Hussein paid tribute to the fallen of his country over three generations in support of the Palestinian cause, and pledged: "We will never forget Palestine — not for a moment."

King Hussein said the prospects for peace and security are growing before our eyes.

Mr. Rabin, in his speech, said, "We have come from Jerusalem to Washington because it is we who must say, and we are here to say: It is peace we desire."

With me here in this House today, are my partners in this great dream. Here with me, here with you, are:

\* Amir Kaplan, whose first brother was killed in an accident, whose second brother was killed in pursuit of terrorists, whose third brother was killed in war and whose parents died of heartbreak. And today he is a seeker of peace.

\* Moshe Sasson, who, together with his father, was an emissary to the talks with King Abdullah and to other missions of peace. Today he is also an emissary of peace.

\* A classmate of mine, Chana Rivlin of Kibbutz Geshur which faces Jordan, who endured bitter fighting and lost a son in war. Today she looks out her window onto Jordan and wants the dream of peace to come true.

\* Avraham Daskal, ninety years old, who worked for the Electric Company in Trans-Jordan and was privileged to attend the celebrations marking King Hussein's birth. He is hoping for peace in his lifetime.

\* And Dani Matt, who fought the Jordanians in the War of Independence, was taken a prisoner-of-war and devoted his life to the security of the State of Israel. He hopes that his grandchildren will never know war.

\* Mrs. Penina Herzog, whose husband wove the first threads of political ties with Jordan.

With us here in this hall are:

\* Mr. Gabi Kadosh, from Eilat which touches on the frontier with Jordan and will be a focus of common tourism.

\* And Mr. Shimon Cahaner, who fought against the Jordanians, memorialises his fallen comrades and hopes that they will have been the last to fall.

\* And Mr. Talal Al Krienawi, a representative of the Bedouins in Israel who look forward to renewing the friendship with their brothers in Jordan.

\* And Mr. David Coren, a member of a kibbutz which was captured by the Jordanians in 1948, who awaits the day when the borders will be open.

And Dr. Asher Sussar, a scholar who has done research on Jordan throughout his adult life.

\* And Dr. Sharon Regev, whose father was killed while pursuing terrorists in the Jordan Valley and who yearns for peace with all his heart.

Here they are before you, people who never rejoiced in the victories of war, but whose hearts are now filled with joy in peace.

We, the mothers blinking back tears as our sons are inducted into the army, we, the fathers who stay awake at night worried and anxious for our children's safety. We, Jews and Arabs, We, Israelis and Jordanians. We, the People, we shape the face of history.

And we, the leaders, bear the voices, and sense the deepest emotions and feelings of the thousands and the millions, and translate them into reality.

If my people did not desire peace so strongly, I would not be standing here today. And I am sure that if the children of Amman and the soldiers of Irbid, the women of Salt and the citizens of Aqaba did not seek peace, our partner in this great quest, the King of Jordan, would not be here now, shaking hands, calling for peace.

We bear the responsibility. We have the power to decide. And we dare not miss this great opportunity. For it is the duty of leaders to bring peace and well-being to their peoples. We are graced with the privilege of fulfilling this duty for our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen, The complex relations between Israel and Jordan have continued for a generation now. Even today, so many years later, we carry with us good memories of the special ties between your country, Your Majesty, and mine, and we carry with us the grim reminders of the times we found ourselves at war.

We remember the days of your grandfather, the King, who sought avenues of peace with the heads of the Jewish people and the leaders of the young State of Israel.

There is much work before us. We face psychological barriers. We face genuine practical problems. Walls of hostility have been built on the River Jordan which runs between us. You in Amman, and we in Jerusalem, must tear down those barriers and walls, must solve those concrete problems.

Yesterday we took a giant step towards a peace which will embrace it all: borders and water, security and economics, trade without boycotts, tourism, the environment and diplomatic relations. We want a peace between human beings.

Your Majesty, Beyond the ceremonies, after the festivities, we will move on to the negotiations. They will not be easy. But when they are completed, a wonderful, common future awaits us. The Middle East, the cradle of the great monotheistic civilisation: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the Middle East, which was a valley of the shadow of death, will be a place where it is a pleasure to live.

Your Majesty, We live on the same stretch of land. The same rain

## to trade for leaders

including Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Abdul Karim in Qana and Mustafa Dirani. The statement said: "It also called for the release of some detainees from their Palestinian factions." Sheikh Yassin, who was arrested in December 1993, was released shortly after the signing of the Oslo Accords and another Israeli soldier was killed. He was shot for life in October 1993.

## King, Rabin address Congress

(Continued from page 1)

ated applause he drew with his resounding affirmation of Jordan's commitment to peace.

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## Declaration sets framework

(Continued from page 1)

in the face of repeated Israeli extremists' attempts to desecrate the holy places, has secured Jordan's sovereignty over Islamic holy places in advance and has thus secured continued right to provide care and protection to these places, Dr. Anani said.

Describing the Washington declaration as a reaffirmation of the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda signed last September, the minister said that it heralds an end of the state of war between the two sides.

## Clinton restates pledge

(Continued from page 1)

terrorism that threatens the historic march to Mideast peace.

King Hussein said Arabs and Israelis must "live as members of one family." He denounced the bombers of the Israeli embassy in London as the "enemies of hope, enemies of security."

Using even more pointed language, Mr. Rabin lashed out at "radical Islamic terrorists" he said were committed to blocking peace in the region through violence, including the London bombing Tuesday and another last week in Argentina.

## Declaration sets framework

(Continued from page 1)

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President Clinton also denounced the bombings as the likely work of those opposed to Middle East peace.

Mr. Rabin said his country did not want "one square inch" of Lebanese territory and would respect its borders in any peace treaty with Lebanon.

"We don't seek one square inch of Lebanese territory," Mr. Rabin said. "The border there is defined. There is an

international border and we will respect it."

President Clinton said Russian President Boris Yeltsin had called him to support the Jordan-Israeli declaration of peace. Mr. Yeltsin also pledged to withdraw troops from Estonia, Mr. Clinton said, describing it as part of "the vibrations of peace" flowing from the Israel-Jordan agreements.



## Arab Gulf central banks under fire for neglecting development

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A Gulf official Tuesday launched a rare attack on regional central banks, saying they were neglecting development by sticking to their old role of merely issuing notes and receiving government funds.

"Despite their weight in the banking system and high qualifications in supervising monetary and financial activities, the central banks in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are still concentrating on their traditional functions like issuing currency notes and acting as banks for the governments and the commercial banks," said Hassan Al Numan, chairman of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Chambers' Federation.

"The central banks, like those in advanced countries, should transcend their traditional roles by contributing to

expanding the development activities of the commercial banks through the mobilisation of the frozen resources of the private sector and drawing up mechanisms for their utilisation," he emphasised.

GCC banks have often come under fire for devoting their financing operations to non-productive sectors such as trade, construction and services for more profits.

But this is the first time that central banks are directly held responsible for neglecting the industrial and agricultural sectors.

The central banks have been involved in measures to reform their banking sector to ensure all units meet international standards in terms of capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equities and assets.

The measures, following

adequacy rules by the Bank for International Settlements, include incentives for merging banks, stronger supervision by monetary authorities, curbs on lending and instructions to raise capital.

The central banks, however, have not interfered in banking operations apart from urging banks from time to time to give attention to productive fields.

Sheikh Numan gave no figures but official statistics showed loans to trade and construction accounted for more than half the \$24.5 billion extended by Saudi Arabia's 12 commercial banks in 1992.

In the UAE, the two sectors received nearly 60 per cent of the \$10.8 billion provided by the country's 19 national banks and 28 foreign

units.

Construction and trade have remained the most profitable sectors in GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — as other investment opportunities are relatively limited.

"GCC central banks should shoulder their responsibilities by persuading national banks to pump more funds into such productive sectors as industry and agriculture," Sheikh Numan wrote in the chambers magazine, Trade.

"Their concentration on certain sectors like trade and real estate have pushed banks and those sectors to a dead-end. Such sectors have become saturated and the banks are still striving to regain their loans and interests," he concluded.

## ASEAN wins European assurances on protectionism

BANGKOK (AFP) — The European Union (EU) Tuesday assured ASEAN that it would not curb the region's burgeoning exports with protectionist barriers, but the two sides remain divided on terms for a new cooperation pact.

Hans van den Broek, EU commissioner for external political relations, said that while the EU favoured a wider mandate for the World Trade Organisation (WTO), "we have to be realistic in giving any legitimacy to disguised or green protectionism."

Mr. Van den Broek was speaking at annual talks here between foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and their major trading partners, the United States, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and the EU.

His assurance came amid growing concern among ASEAN states — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — over Western demands that developing countries improve workers' wages and social benefits as preconditions for more trade.

The United States and France are among the countries pushing for the inclusion of "social clauses" in trade agreements. Such clauses ASEAN countries say are aimed at reducing the competitive edge they enjoy from having large pools of low-wage workers.

On Monday the U.S. under-secretary of state for economic and agricultural affairs, Joan Spero, denied that Washington was trying to introduce protectionist measures through such

clauses.

The United States is interested in international issues such as the prevention of child labour rather than wages of workers in individual countries, she said.

The ASEAN countries have also criticised regulations requiring labelling of their exports to developed countries to show exports comply with environmental laws.

The differences threaten to yet again complicate negotiations for a second generation economic agreement between the two groupings deadlocked because of European unhappiness over alleged abuses of human rights in East Timor which Indonesia annexed in 1976.

Mr. Van den Broek said that the EU wanted the WTO, which replaces the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade next year, to look into the link between trade and environmental protection, national regulations governing trade and social conditions to ensure that "free trade was also fair trade."

"But we are determined that in doing so this should not be used as an excuse for introducing some form of disguised protectionism," he said.

Mr. Van den Broek later told reporters that the EU was not unhappy with low salaries paid workers in developing countries.

"But there should be minimum accepted universal standards," he said, adding that the EU was opposed to all forms of child labour and prison labour and abuse of the environment.

## S. African business wants growth but wary of state

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's biggest employer body lent its weight Tuesday to government proposals for post-apartheid reconstruction, but urged the state to pursue policies friendly to business and investors for it to succeed.

"We want the RDP (reconstruction and development programme) to be a success story," said Raymond Parsons, director general of the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB).

But he told a news conference: "The bottom line is... business must be RDP-friendly, and the RDP must be business-friendly."

He was releasing proposals submitted by the chamber to the national unity government for a "white paper" framework for legislation on the development programme designed to benefit apartheid's victims.

The 37.5 billion rand (\$10 billion) RDP proposes major public works and other schemes to provide desperately needed jobs and tackle housing, education, health, training and other backlogs suffered by the five-to-one black majority.

About 17 million of the country's 40 million people live around or below the poverty line, nearly half the workforce have no formal sector jobs and seven million live in shacks.

SACOB, which represents some 40,000 businesses nationwide, said it shared the concerns outlined in the RDP, an election manifesto drawn up by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress which dominates the multi-party government.

Both government and business have expressed fears

that the current wave of industrial disputes sweeping South Africa would harm the economy which is just emerging from the longest recession on record and undermine investor confidence.

Mr. Mandela, president since May, has stressed the RDP will be the cornerstone of the government's strategy, but has insisted it will also pursue prudent and disciplined economic policies.

SACOB said in its proposal that it had a major task to fulfill in ensuring the objectives of the plan come to fruition.

But while the RDP envisaged a role for business, this had not been clearly spelt out and there are some who there fore might interpret the plan as a sign the new administration would be as authoritarian as the previous one, it said.

"There is one matter, central to the RDP, about which the business community is concerned. This relates to state intervention in the economy," it said.

It acknowledged such intervention was unavoidable in modern industrial economies, but much depended on how it was exercised.

"If the state is to be used in a heavy-handed manner to counterbalance the distortions of apartheid with other ideologically-driven distortions, the result for the economy will be catastrophic," it warned.

It referred, for example, to an RDP proposal that if major financial institutions did not take up "socially desirable" and targeted investments, the government should consider some form of legislation to achieve this.

## Planning agency says Japan should deepen ties with Asia to prevent industrial demise

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan should deepen its interdependence with other Asian economies to prevent the strong yen from "hollowing out" the country's industrial base, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday.

"We have often heard the pessimistic view that the Japanese economy will hollow out," the agency said in its annual white paper, referring to growing fears that the strong yen will face the country's industrial base offshore.

But while the adjustment might be "painful" in some sectors, the agency said Japan could ultimately benefit by concentrating on value-added industries.

"It is true that the transfer of manufacturing production bases abroad will reduce domestic production, employment and investment opportunities. In the short term, the adjustment to increases in imports and overseas production might be painful in some industries," it warned.

"However, economic efficiency and expansion will be promoted if we can shift economic resources freed by the increase in direct investment to more value-added sectors. Therefore, it is important to deepen interdependence with Asian countries and make the trade and industrial more value added," the EPA pointed out.

The white paper, adopted by the cabinet Tuesday, said the type of direct Japanese investment expected to increase as a result of the yen's appreciation was in the electronics sector in Asian countries.

For every one percentage point increase in the yen's value, it said Japanese investment in manufacturing in Asia was estimated to rise 1.6 per cent.

The Japanese currency has soared more than 10 per cent so far this year, with the dollar falling to a new all-time low of less than 97 yen earlier this month, down from almost 112 yen at the end of last year.

"Direct investment in Asian countries is intended to utilise the cost advantage by specialising in labour-intensive production processes. On the other hand, direct investment in North America and Europe is largely for the establishment of production bases for local sales, which falls under the influence of cyclical movements of the economy," the white paper said.

The agency noted that the yen's recent surge was having a bigger impact on the Japanese economy than the appreciation which occurred in the late 1980s.

The surge which began in 1985 represented a return to the "equilibrium yen-dollar rate," based on the purchasing power of goods in Japan and the United States from which exchange rates had previously deviated.

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## Jordan, Israel to pursue free trade agreement

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Jordan will seek a free trade agreement in another step toward normalised relations, the head of the international division of Israel's finance ministry said Tuesday.

"The concept of a free-trade agreement was raised by the Jordanians and accepted by us," said division head Ehud Kaufman, a delegate to talks last week in Jordan after Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's historic public visit to the Kingdom.

"It by definition means that the Arab boycott will be abolished — or at least the adherence to it will be," Mr. Kaufman said.

Mr. Kaufman told reporters the two countries would now discuss the length of a phase-in period during which tariffs on Israeli goods entering Jordan would be gradually reduced. Jordan proposes a 15-year term, but Israel wants a shorter one.

The sides agreed that Jordanian exports should be duty-free first because Israel's economy is more advanced, Mr. Kaufman said.

Israel and Jordan also agreed to share technology, marketing networks and trade-related infrastructures, such as ports.

Mr. Kaufman said he believed the two countries could jointly exploit minerals such as potash on their border near the Dead Sea.

## Albania aims to privatise economy by mid 1997

TIRANA (R) — Albania aims to privatise its economy within the next three years and by 1997 the private sector should account for over two-thirds of gross domestic product, a senior cabinet minister has said.

"The government has adopted guidelines to privatise the greatest part of the Albanian economy by 1996," Bashkim Kopliku, deputy premier in charge of privatisation, said in an article in the semi-official daily Rilindja Demokratike.

"In 1997 at least 70 per cent of the GDP is to be produced by the private sector," he said.

Albania has begun to return land to its former owners or their heirs and under the guidelines, people who own

land on which an enterprise stands will get a chance to buy it, he said. Otherwise the enterprise will be sold by auction. Local authorities will set the price in line with market value.

Foreigners will also be allowed to bid to rent the land for a period up to 99 years.

Rent will be paid to the state, not to the original landowner, Mr. Kopliku said, and the state will take over the debts or profits of an enterprise to be privatised before the sale.

He said that 95 per cent of all small and medium-sized enterprises would be privatised by the end of next year.

The deputy premier also said most services will be privatised by 1996.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 27, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The Moon in Aries times the Sun at midday making it possible to easily align one's thinking and feelings as we strive for harmony with family and community members. Harmony is everywhere now.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Obtain all the information you can that's connected with new projects you have in mind. Then you will know how to proceed in a timely manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may want to make some changes now in dealings you have with others, so discuss them seriously with them and get their suggestions.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Listen to the views of associates for future benefits and cooperate more with them. Travel with utmost care and you will be safe.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can easily get rid of a pesky problem if you start doing something about it instead of procrastinating and waiting until later.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Avoid one who is detrimental to your best interests. Plan how to make your talents work more efficiently for you today.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try to understand those at home better and have more

side activities and become more affluent with those around you.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Improve relations with allies by having serious talks with them. Plan your day better and you have more free time to devote to other activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Delve into important tasks ahead of you instead of wasting time on less important matters. Be more helpful to others around you today.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be sure that business affairs are running smoothly before seeking recreation. Be more optimistic towards new projects you are involved in.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Go after the personal goals which most appeal to you and gain them easily. Handle business affairs wisely and you will be successful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Listening to what good friends have to say can bring you more success now. Plan how to gain your finest aims and desires.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You can have big advancement through the unexpected today so be alert at all times for advantages. Strive for increased happiness with loved ones.

## THE Daily Crossword by Valentina Barnes

ACROSS

- Copied
- Small pie
- Branch of the service
- Level
- Jeff Bridges film
- Conduct
- Following
- How popular seems set
- Summer at the Sorbonne
- Contest
- Triumph
- Golf's — Cup
- Complacent
- Hunt
- Women's garments
- Midnight
- Maugham novel
- Benefit
- Instruction booklets
- Onassis
- Letter opener
- Vows
- Greeting
- A couple
- Muscle style
- An easy task
- Muscle style
- A Battle
- Nautical term
- Plan
- News bits
- Hollow stalk
- Stan contents
- Eight, e.g.
- Size of paper

DOWN

- Deer horn
- Equivalence
- Crow term
- Unit of force
- Some cars
- Eight-legged
- Not of the clergy
- Writing table
- Past or present
- Maria
- Actor Harrison
- Explosive
- Impassable Sol
- Breakfast item
- Sole
- Scrooge word
- Finish
- Israeli diplomat
- Scrummage
- What's for dinner
- Cow app.
- Acres Moore
- River to the Danube
- Famous lion
- Wind
- Standstill
- Scrooge word
- Mine product
- Soak in liquid
- Desert of
- Malay
- Fast
- Major and
- City in France

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. Cope
2. Pie
3. Branch
4. Level
5. Bridges
6. Conduct
7. Following
8. Popular
9. Summer
10. Contest
11. Triumph
12. Cup
13. Complacent
14. Hunt
15. Women's
16. Midnight
17. Maugham
18. Benefit
19. Instruction
20. Onassis
21. Letter
22. Vows
23. Greeting
24. Couple
25. Muscle
26. Easy
27. Muscle
28. Battle
29. Nautical
30. Plan
31. News
32. Hollow
33. Stan
34. Eight
35. Paper

DOWN

1. Deer
2. Equiv
3. Crow
4. Unit
5. Cars
6. Eight
7. Not
8. Table
9. Past
10. Maria
11. Actor
12. Explosive
13. Impass
14. Breakf
15. Sole
16. Scroog
17. Finis
18. Israel
19. Scrum
20. What's
21. Cow
22. Acres
23. River
24. Famo
25. Wind
26. Stand
27. Scroog
28. Mine
29. Soak
30. Deser
31. Malay
32. Fast
33. Major
34. City

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen



**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

COPAH

JEECT

HAVEEB

HIRTY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A "COPAH JEECT HAVEEB HIRTY"

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEECH, IMBUE, FALTER, PURIFY

Answer: Another name for a cattle rustler — A BEEF THIEF

**Peanuts**



**Andy Capp**



**Mutt'n' Jeff**





business with of state

that the current wave of industrial disputes sweeping the economy which is just coming on record and undermining investor confidence.

Mr. Mandela, president of the RDP, has stressed the need for the government to pursue prudent and balanced economic policies. SACOB said in its report that it had a major task to fulfill in ensuring the objectives of the plan come to fruition.

But while the RDP envisaged a role for business, it had not been clearly spelled out and there are some who think it might interpret the plan as a sign the new administration would be as authoritarian as the previous one, it said.

"There is one matter, central to the RDP, about which the business community is concerned. This relates to state intervention in the economy," it said.

It acknowledged that state intervention was unavoidable in modern industrial economies, but much depended on how it was exercised.

"If the state is to be used as a heavy-handed manner to counterbalance the distortions of apartheid with ideologically-driven decisions, the result for the economy will be catastrophic," it warned.

It referred, for example, to an RDP proposal that if a financial institution is not taken up "socially desirable" and targeted investments, the government should consider some form of legislation to achieve the

army there. Engage in a wide range of activities and become more efficient with those around in the area. (September 23 to October 22) Improve relations with the army by having serious talks with them. Plan your day better so you have more free time to devote to other activities.

CORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Delve into important tasks ahead of you instead of wasting time on less important matters. Be more helpful to others around you today.

AGITARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be sure to finish up business affairs as smoothly as possible before seeking romance. Be more optimistic towards new projects you are involved in.

APRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Go after the goals which most appeal to you and gain them easily. Hard business affairs wisely and you will be successful.

QUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listening to the advice of friends have to say about you more success and an how to gain your finest and best desires.

SCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can have big advancement through the unexpected in your life. Be alert at all times in your life. Strive for more happiness with loved ones.

by Valentina Barnes

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Financial Markets			
Jordan Times			
In co-operation with			
Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	
	Date 25/7/94	Date 26/7/94	
Sterling Pound	1.5304	1.5320	
Deutsche Mark	1.5895	1.5886	
Swiss Franc	1.3460	1.3490	
French Franc	5.4275	5.4380**	
Japanese Yen	98.55	98.70	
European Currency Unit	1.2100	1.2022**	
* Last by 5:00 PM			
** European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT			
Eurocurrency Interest Rates			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4.56	5.00 5.50
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.00	5.31 5.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75 4.87
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.06	4.12 4.37
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.56 5.75
Japanese Yen	7.87	2.00	2.00 2.25
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.81	6.00 6.25
Interest rate for deposits exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar 1,000,000 or equivalent.			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Date: 26/7/1994			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.8940	0.8960	
Sterling Pound	1.0619	1.0672	
Deutsche Mark	0.4362	0.4384	
Swiss Franc	0.5139	0.5165	
French Franc	0.1278	0.1284	
Japanese Yen	0.7018	0.7055	
Dutch Guilder	0.3892	0.3911	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
Italian Lira	0.0440	0.0442	
Belgian Franc	*****	*****	
* Per 100			
Other Currencies			
Currency	Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8250	1.8380	
Lebanese Lira	0.040385	0.041975	
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1862	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3700	
Qatari Riyal	8.1884	8.1893	
Egyptian Pound	0.2040	0.2250	
Omani Riyal	1.7830	1.8200	
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893	
Greek Drachma	0.2625	0.3135	
Cypriot Pound	1.3245	1.4515	
* Per 100			

## Egypt selling stake in big hotel

CAIRO (R) — The public-sector company which owns the 547-room Cairo Sheraton Hotel has agreed to sell 40 per cent of it to a private Egyptian-registered firm for about \$70 million, the man in charge said Tuesday.

The sale will be the largest to the private sector in the tourism sector since the Egyptian government began its slow-moving privatisation programme in the early 1990s.

Hamed Fahmy, chairman of the state's Housing, Tourism and Cinema Holding Company, said the general assembly of the company Egoth approved the deal at a meeting last week. Egoth is a

wholly-owned subsidiary of the holding company.

The private company, the Arab Investment Company for Touristic Development, will have a 40 per cent stake. Egoth will retain 58 per cent and the holding company the remaining two per cent of the equity in a company which will own the hotel.

"Now we are preparing the documents for making this company, the general assembly gave us a period of two months to end this process," Mr. Fahmy told Reuters.

## Asian markets battle for bond market status — report

HONG KONG (AFP) — A close battle is being fought between Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand for the position of the leading Asian bond market after Japan, a report has said.

The latest world bond market survey conducted by Julius Baer Investment Ltd., an investment vehicle of Switzerland's private banking institution Baer Group, showed Hong Kong's bond market ranked 23rd out of 32

markets surveyed, just behind Singapore and Malaysia at joint 21st.

Thailand followed in 24th place, said the



## GOODWILL GAMES

## Joyner-Kersey wins heptathlon title; Mitchel wins 100m, becomes a star

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersey struggled to her third straight Goodwill Games heptathlon title Tuesday, while Mike Powell and Noureddine Morceli won their events.

Joyner-Kersey, the world record-holder, overcame a bad case of asthma to win the heptathlon with 6,606 points — her lowest total since 1984. She had trouble breathing as she completed the final event, the 800 metres, as soon as she crossed the finish line, she doubled over and tried to catch her breath. Her coach and husband, Bob Kersey, rushed over and pounded her on the back to help her breathe.

"When the weather got cooler, it kicked up some pollen and dust," Joyner-Kersey said later. "In the home stretch, I was feeling so hot I wanted to pull my top down. I couldn't breathe. I'm glad it's over."

Joyner-Kersey had built a 109-point lead after Monday's first four events. After Tuesday's long jump, javelin and 800 metres, she finished 114 points ahead of runner-up Larisa Turchinskaya of Russia. Ghada Shouaa of Syria was third.

Joyner-Kersey, the American record-holder in the women's long jump and the second-longest performer in history, withdrew from Thursday's long jump competition. Her husband said she would be too physically spent after the heptathlon to compete in the long jump.

Powell, the world record-holder, won the long jump on his sixth and final attempt with a leap of 8.45 metres (27 feet, 8 3/4). He fouled three times and appeared to be suffering from a hamstring injury, but came through when he needed to. Fellow American Erick Walder was second in 8.39 (27 6/4).

Carl Lewis did not compete in the long jump, having pulled out after running the 100-metres Monday.

World record-holder Morceli of Algeria pulled away on the last lap to win the mile in 3:48.67. The fastest time of the year. After crossing the finish line, he dropped to his knees on the track, spread out his arms and made the victory sign with both hands.

In beach volleyball action Tuesday, Norway's Jan Kvalheim and Bjørn Naaseide won the men's gold medal by beating the U.S. team of Jeff Williams and

Carlos Briseño 12-8, 12-6.

The women's gold was won by the U.S. team of Karolyn Kirby and Liz Masakayan of San Diego, who downed Brazil's Monica Rodrigues and Auriana Samuel 12-9, 12-1.

"This has been our no. 1 goal all year," said Masakayan, who along with Kirby won the five world series title earlier this year, "this is the first major event we've had in the sport and is similar to what we are going to see in the future at the Olympic Games."

Beach volleyball will make its debut at the 1996 Games in Atlanta. "Winning the gold in Atlanta is our ultimate goal," Kirby said.

In another U.S.-Brazil matchup, Americans Lori Forsythe and Barbara Fontana beat Maria Salgado and Roseli Timm of Brazil 15-8 for the bronze medal.

The star of Monday's track competition was Dennis Mitchell, the "Green Machine," who won the men's 100-metres. Now he wants to cash in.

"I feel like a million dollars," Dennis Mitchell said after beating a marquee field Monday night that included Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis. "I wish I had a million

dollars." Mitchell might not collect that right away, but he's certainly in a strong position to demand big money for appearing at lucrative brand prize meets in Europe this summer.

"Zurich and Cologne will be bigger races than this," he said. "There is a lot of money walking around in the 100 metres this year, and I want to get a big piece of it." Mitchell's coach, John Smith, said he will set it to that the 28-year-old sprinter is well rewarded by big meet promoters.

"When an athlete is running well, they want him," Smith said. "Dennis is running extremely well. He's a streak runner, and he's catching fire now."

Originally, Mitchell wasn't even invited by Goodwill Games organizers. He was asked to compete only after Britain's Linford Christie, the Olympic and world champion, withdrew because of a hamstring injury.

"They signed everybody but him," Smith said of Mitchell. "He was angry. It was a disgrace. They couldn't run the race without him."

## AIBA chief Choudhry smiles at last

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — For the first time in several years International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) President Anwar Choudhry can allow himself the luxury of a relaxed smile.

After a series of crises which at one stage looked like pushing the sport off the Olympic timetable, Amateur Boxing looks safe for the time being.

It is a far cry from the dark days of October 1988 when International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that boxing's future as an Olympic sport was under review.

He was speaking in the wake of the boxing tournament at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, marred by several highly controversial judging decisions.

Choudhry introduced a series of sweeping changes designed to improve safety

and judging standards.

He thought he had saved the day until the leak of an IOC programming committee document last December which urged boxing be dropped at the 1996 Olympics.

"I met Samaranch immediately and he assured me the report did not have the support of the IOC. He very categorically stated boxing should remain in the Olympic Games programme," Choudhry told journalists at the Goodwill Games boxing tournament.

The AIBA chief showed his new confidence about the sport when he revealed he had asked Russia to organise a permanent annual competition gathering the best eight amateur boxers in all 12 weight categories.

But although boxing seems to be safe for the time being, Choudhry admits things could still be better.

One improvement to the

sport still provoking some controversy is the computer judging system which Choudhry devised in a bid to defuse criticism that biased and incompetent referees were ruining the sport.

The system registers a punch only if three of the five judges press a button within one second of each other.

But boxers complain that judges regularly fail to focus on head shots, which are noticed more easily.

Choudhry, a Pakistani who judged at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, is unmoved, saying there had been just one judging protest at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics compared to 32 at Seoul in 1988.

"The system has stood the test of time. The administrators fully believe in the system," he said. "The IOC has congratulated us about all we have done to overcome very strong doubts about the judg-

ing." But pressed on the vocal complaints about the new judging system, he concedes: "We are not worried about it but there is room for improvement."

For him the computer system underlines the changing face of the sport.

"Boxers who are small do not have much chance. Today you need good height, a long reach and good footwork," he said.

Choudhry also had to deal with ever increasing criticism from doctors over the medical dangers of boxing.

AIBA paid \$1.5 million for a five-year study of 500 boxers which coincides with a similar study done of the IOC.

"The IOC study categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic programme and remained a safe sport for the youth," he said.

## Romario and Co.: Saints or smugglers?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — They left the United States as World Cup champions, saints in deities, symbols of hope in a country hied by official waste and corruption.

A day after coming home, they were tax cheats, shameless smugglers, symbols of selfishness and greed.

Brazil's national soccer team went from idols to soundbites last Wednesday by refusing to pay \$1 million of customs duties on personal items bought in the United States during the World Cup.

It dampened the euphoria that swept across this soccer-crazed country and triggered a scandal that muddled the president, the finance minister and the head of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation.

The nation's tax chief quit in disgust the day after President Itamar Franco overruled his order and told customs officials at Rio's international airport to wave through all excess luggage on the team plane.

All 17.4 tonnes of it. "Nobody can be above the law," said Osirios Lopes Filho, who resigned as federal revenue secretary. "Everyone, not only the middle class and the poor, must pay taxes."

The debacle touched off a nationwide debate on ethics in Brazil, a country where authoritarianism, nepotism and paternalism form a recipe for a sharp social and economic inequalities.

"What a sad spectacle," said the newsweekly *Veja*, in a cover story titled "The Star Smugglers."

"The team missed a great chance to show us that even heroes must comply with obligations and laws every Brazilian must follow," the magazine said in an editorial.

Signs of trouble began to appear the day after the World Cup final when the Varig DC-10 carrying the 97-member delegation was delayed for four hours in Los Angeles because of excess weight.

After marathon parades in Recife and Brasilia, the de-



Brazilian national soccer players Bebeto (left), Ricardo Rocha (center) and Romario (right) Sunday pose with their honor trophy received for the Brazilian victory in the 1994 World Cup before a soccer match between Vasco and Grêmio at the Maracanã Stadium (AFP photo)

legation arrived in Rio close to midnight Tuesday for a four-hour ticker-tape parade for an estimated 1 million fans.

Brazilian law permits citizens to bring up to \$500 worth of items purchased abroad into the country duty free.

That's why customs officials got suspicious when five, 30-foot (10-metre) moving trucks rolled up to drive the team's luggage to the hotel.

The unloading took time. Among other things were 18 television sets, computers, refrigerators, fax machines, laser printers, microwave ovens, gymnastics equipment, a barbecue grill, dishwashers and even a leather horse saddle.

Customs officials estimated that defenders Jorginho and Branco brought back a combined total of \$8,800 in electronics and hardware. Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had \$5,000 worth of computer and TV equipment.

All in all, about \$1 million

in duties had to be paid. Lopes Filho ordered the baggage held and inspected.

Ricardo Teixeira, the confederation president, called the stars down from the fire truck that would escort them through Rio. They removed the merit medals awarded at the presidential palace and threatened to boycott the parade.

"We didn't smuggle anything," said striker Romario. "We represented Brazil before 2 billion people around the world. If they don't release my luggage, I'm giving back my medal."

It was midnight. In any other country the victory parade might have been postponed until morning. But in the land where soccer is almost a religion, a call came from the presidential palace.

The order from Finance Minister Rubens Ricuperlo: Let the baggage through, un-inspected. Let the party go on.

"That goal scored by Branco to break the 2-2 tie against the Netherlands was worth a



## Spurs to renew chase for Hagi

LONDON (AP) — Troubled English soccer club Tottenham is reported to be certain to renew its bid for Romanian World Cup star Cheche Hagi after the collapse of his negotiations with Barcelona.

Hagi, who is currently tied to Italian club Brescia, was expected to move to Tottenham for £2 million (\$3 million), but the deal has fallen through.

"There is still a very good deal from Tottenham on offer," his business manager said in London's Evening Standard newspaper.

Tottenham is desperate to boost its playing quality after being severely punished and handicapped by the Football Association when it was found guilty in May of making

irregular payments to players several years ago.

The club was banned from this season's F.A. Cup, fined £600,000 (\$900,000) and had 12 points deducted from its total at the start of this season, which was later reduced to six.

Hagi, 29, was one of the genuine greats at the World Cup and was a big reason behind Romania's charge to the quarterfinals, where it lost to Sweden in a penalty shootout.

The midfielder will be a great boost for Spurs manager Ossie Ardiles who failed in a £2 million (\$3 million) bid for Brazilian defender Marcio Santos last week.

## Pakistan facing world soccer ban

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — World football governing body FIFA is being urged to suspend Pakistan after rival footballing factions sent national teams to an Asian youth qualifying tournament.

"We are not amused by this at all," said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, who has recommended suspension to FIFA.

"Pakistan has a formidable history of squabbling and this is not the first time that we have had to intervene."

Pakistan national federation President Mian Mohammad Azhar and his rival General Secretary Hafiz Salman Butt picked their own teams for the Asian under-19 championship qualifying tournament in the United Arab Emirates.

Velappan said the Pakistan football's executive committee voted to suspend Butt for six months but Butt replied by suspending the Azhar, saying his removal was unconstitutional.

"We have accepted (Azhar's) team for the tournament as representing Pakistan. I believe Butt's team has flown back to Karachi," said Velappan, adding the two Pakistan teams had arrived on the same flight from Karachi.

The AFC is pressing for Pakistan's suspension "until they can resolve all of their internal problems and hold proper elections for officers," said Velappan.

FIFA's concern is likely to be heightened because both officials have started court action in Pakistan challenging one another.

## France's Delaitre upsets Rafter in Toronto tournament

TORONTO (AP) — Australian Patrick Rafter, ranked 22nd in the world, lost to little-known Olivier Delaitre of France 5-2, 6-3, 6-3 Monday, the first upset at the \$1.7 million U.S. Player's Ltd. international tennis tournament.

In other matches, the No. 13 seed, Aaron Krickstein, defeated fellow American Jeff Tarango 6-2, 6-2; Malivi Washington of the U.S. the 14th seed, outlasted Bahamian Mark Knowles 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and 16th-seeded German Karsten Bransen eliminated Bobby Kokavec, 18, of Canada, 6-0, 6-4 in 57 minutes.

"I tried my best and did everything I could," said Kokavec, the 1993 Canadian under-18 champion who suffered a stress fracture in his left leg 2 1/2 months ago. "These guys make you plan and they fight for every point. I just hope to improve from this."

In other action Monday, Britain's Jeremy Bates downed David Rikl of the Czech Republic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; American Chuck Adams defeated Martin Damm of the Czech Republic 3-6, 6-2, 6-3; Nigeria's Sule Ladipo eliminated American Jonathan Stark 7-5, 6-4; Sweden's Thomas Enqvist downed Austrian Alex Antonitsch 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; and Italian Stefano Pescosolido defeated France's Lionel Rout 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Leeds set deadline for Skuhravy deal

LONDON (R) — English premier league club Leeds have almost given up hope of signing Genoa's Czech international striker Tomas Skuhravy. Leeds Managing Director Bill Fotherby Monday extended the deadline for a deal until 1600 GMT Tuesday but admitted: "I will be surprised if the transfer goes ahead." After eight hours of negotiations with the Italian club's President Aldo Spinelli, Fotherby revealed a last-minute hitch had left the three million pounds sterling (\$4.5 million) transfer in jeopardy. "We have agreed everything with Skuhravy and Genoa but there is a financial complication between the player and his club," he said. "If it is not resolved the transfer cannot go ahead."

## Moroccan player joins Sporting Lisbon

NANTES, France (AFP) — Moroccan international Nourredine Naybet has signed a three-year contract with Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon, officials of his French first-division club Nantes said. Sporting paid just under 9 million francs (\$1.6 million) for the 24-year-old.

## Lalas gets Italian welcome...

PADUA, Italy (AFP) — American World Cup defender Alexi Lalas was welcomed by hundreds of Padua fans here Tuesday following a tug-of-war over the 24-year-old's signature. Lalas looks set to join the newly-promoted Serie A side, despite the rival attentions of English sides Coventry and German team Bochum. Club president Sergio Giordani, who is reported to have paid \$200,000 for the player for a year's loan, said: "I'm sure he'll like it here. He's more interested in the place than the money."

## ...and so will Dumitrescu

PADUA (AFP) — Romanian international Ilie Dumitrescu also looks on the verge of joining Padua. The club's directors travelled to Steaua Bucharest Monday and agreed terms with the player but his fee has yet to be thrashed out.

## Effenberg wants to leave Italy

ROME (AFP) — German international Stefan Effenberg, sent home in disgrace from the World Cup for making an obscene gesture at fans, wants to leave Italian club Fiorentina after reports it was set to sign Brazilian Marcio Santos. "There won't be any room for me when he arrives," said mid-fielder Effenberg. "My contract runs to 1997 but I hope president Cecchi Gori will let me go — I've got plenty of offers."

## Rugby player cleared of killing

LONDON (AFP) — The first Rugby Union player in the 171-year history of the game to be accused of killing a rival on the field, has been acquitted by a court. William Hardy, 25, was charged with the manslaughter of Seamus Lavelle as a result of a clash during an amateur match in March last year. Lavelle died of head injuries two days after the incident, in which Hardy had allegedly "piledriven" him with an uppercut to the jaw. Hardy did not dispute he lashed out at 16-stone forward Lavelle during the ill-tempered encounter between his club Centaurs and Hendon. However, his claim of self-defence was accepted by an Old Bailey jury. Hardy said afterwards: "I am relieved I have been cleared but I shall carry on grieving for him. I am still upset someone has died."

## Rugby star fined for punch

CHALON-SUR-SAONE, France (AFP) — Former French rugby captain Laurent Rodriguez was fined 6,000 francs (\$900) for punching an opponent and breaking his jaw here on Tuesday. Rodriguez was charged with knocking out Pascal Picamélet during a match between U.S. Dax and RC Chalon September 26. The prosecutor had also called for a 15-day suspended jail sentence but the court decided the offence should not go down on Rodriguez's record after hearing he was not a violent player and had shown remorse. The judge was told the clubs were back on friendly terms and Picamélet and RC Chalon had withdrawn their complaint. Rodriguez played 55 internationals, including six as captain.

## Olympic medallists turn professional

TORONTO (AFP) — Canadians Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, ice dance bronze medallists in the Lillehammer and Albertville Winter Olympics, announced here Tuesday they were quitting competition to concentrate on a professional career. Brasseur, 23, and Eisler, 32, became world champions in 1987, were also four-time Canadian champions.

## Blackburn star's injury misery

LONDON (AFP) — England international midfielder David Batty will be out of action for three months with a broken bone in his right foot. Batty, bought by Blackburn Rovers for £2.75 million from English Premiership rivals Leeds United last season, will have an operation later this week. Meanwhile defenders David Campbell and Stuart Nethercott and midfielder David Howells have all signed new four-year deals for their club, Tottenham Hotspur.



## Simpson lawyers plead for samples of blood for independent testing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyers and prosecutors sparred Monday over control over blood samples, with the defence demanding the right to independently analyse blood found at the murder scene and Simpson's home.

The judge first proposed a compromise, then postponed a decision on the matter. "This goes to Mr. Simpson's right to due process, to equal protection, to have a fair look at the evidence so we can present our case to a jury in a fair manner," said defence attorney Robert Shapiro.

The request was made at a hearing that marked Simpson's first appearance before superior court judge Lance Ito, the judge assigned last week to hear Simpson's trial. The judge declined to rule Monday, saying he needed testimony from expert witnesses on how much blood is needed for prosecutors to have proper tests. Another hearing was set for Friday.

"I sense that this is critical evidence in the case," he said. "The record is not complete here. I do not have enough scientific evidence to make a ruling at this point."

Ito proposed giving the defence access to 10 per cent of the samples, but delayed his decision after deputy district attorney Marcia Clark told him: "You are taking evidence out of our hands forever."

Ito did allow prosecutors to begin testing some blood Thursday at a lab in Maryland, two days later than planned to give a defence expert time to get there to participate in the procedure. Ito left until later a decision on how to handle leftover samples.

Prosecutors hope so-called genetic DNA fingerprinting and other tests on blood and other physical evidence can tie the former football star to the June 12 deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Defence lawyers hope independent tests will cast doubt on Simpson's guilt.

The test results are to be compared with blood and hair samples taken from Simpson, 47, who has pleaded innocent to two counts of first-degree murder. Shapiro specifically asked for samples of blood drops found at Ms. Simpson's home, blood on a glove at the condo, blood drops on the driveway and in the foyer of Simpson's estate, blood on



O.J. Simpson

the glove found behind his house and smudges on Simpson's Bronco.

Clark strongly objected to the request, saying in some cases there wasn't enough blood to share without affecting the outcome of the highly sensitive DNA tests for genetic make-up.

"What (defence) counsel is really trying to do is compromise the evidence," he said.

Even in a hearing on a subject as dry as scientific testing, there were sharp clashes between the prosecution and defence.

Shapiro called prosecutors "hypocritical" in their con-

tention they wanted to preserve evidence because they themselves had used up some of one sample before the preliminary hearing.

Clark offered to let the defence's own expert conduct some of the tests as long as a prosecution expert witnessed the procedures. The defence didn't respond to the offer.

Ito, whose every move will be closely scrutinised in the highly publicised case, handled the hearing in a relaxed, businesslike fashion, even joking he was a little out of his league in discussing DNA testing since the kind of science he studied in college was political scientists call DNA deoxyribonucleic acid — defines each individual's unique genetic code. Some scientists' greatest forensic breakthrough since fingerprinting. Others argue it is subject to contamination and laboratory error and cannot be trusted.

Defence lawyers also planned to ask prosecutors Monday to turn over nearly all their reports and leads. They claim that prosecutors were so eager to bag a celebrity, they overlooked information that would exonerate Simpson.

They asked for police reports on prowlers and burglaries in Ms. Simpson's neighbourhood in the six months before the slayings; a search of computer records for a match to unidentified fingerprints from the slaying scene; police reports of similar unsolved killings in the state over the past year; and criminal histories of everyone involved in the case.

They also asked to see reports of any internal investigations involving detectives assigned to the case and hospital records on anyone bitten by a dog in the 24 hours after the deaths. Ms. Simpson's dog led a neighbour to the bodies.

## Schumacher stunned by 2-race ban

PARIS (AFP) — German driver Michael Schumacher was stunned here Tuesday as Formula One ruling body FIA banned him from two Grand Prix and handed him a six-point penalty.

The decision follows a controversial black flag incident in the British Grand Prix earlier this month — and looks set to throw the drivers' championship wide open.

Roadway leader Schumacher, who is now left with 66 points to British driver Damon Hill's 39, is almost certain to appeal against the verdict, which would allow him to drive in his home Grand Prix at Hockenheim Sunday.

But the Benetton Ford star would then have to look on from the sidelines at the Hungarian (August 14) and Belgian (August 28) races, where Hill could pick up a maximum of 20 points and reignite the season.

Schumacher, already fined \$25,000 for the incident, was accused of ignoring a five-second stop-and-go penalty, followed by a black flag, at Silverstone July 10 after he had overtaken Hill on the warm-up lap.

The black flag meant disqualification but Benetton team chief Flavio Briatore — whose team have been fined \$500,000 — convinced the race marshalls there had been a misunderstanding.

He explained Schumacher did not realise he had to stop and believed the penalty would be added onto his time at the end of the race.

The German was forced into the pits but then allowed to continue, eventually finishing second — earning the six points which have now been doctored — almost 19secs behind Hill.

FIA president Max Mosley said: "Schumacher said he did not see the black flag. The world council found this explanation unacceptable."

Schumacher, who won six out of this season's eight races, is desperate to race at the German Grand Prix. He came third at Hockenheim two years ago and took



German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher (right), flanked by Benetton's manager, Flavio Briatore, arrive Tuesday at the International Automobile Federation (FIA) headquarters after being summoned by the

Special World Council after Britain's Grand Prix in Silverstone. Below, Britains Formula One Pilot Damon Hill arrives also at the FIA headquarters (AFP photos)



stopped, merely slowed down. Two other drivers, Rubens Barrichello and Mike Hakkinen, were given a sus-

pected one-race ban after colliding on the final bend at Silverstone. That ban could be activated if they are guilty of further offences in the next three Grand Prix.

## Atlanta sets up housing for Olympic visitors

ATLANTA (R) — A local property coalition Monday was given the job of assembling a network of thousands of private homes and apartments for lease to visitors during the 1996 Olympic Games.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the private non-profit group charged with

organising the Olympics, named Private Housing 1996 Inc. as the official private housing coordinator.

Private Housing 1996, a corporation formed by leading Atlanta real estate brokers and property developers, will put together an initial housing inventory offering 6,000 beds to the so-called extended Olympic family, in-

cluding journalists and business sponsors.

"Meeting the needs of the Olympic family is our first priority. Beyond that, however, the door is wide open to assemble an even larger inventory of homes and apartments for lease to the general public when tickets go on sale next spring," Private Housing 96 President Jerry Warshaw said.

Housing sites will generally conform to ACOG's list of sports venues, set mainly near the Georgia cities of Atlanta, Savannah and Athens.

Guest rates for homes range from \$150 per bedroom per night for a 14-day stay in a house with a tax-assessed value of up to \$110,000 to \$425 per bedroom in homes valued at up to \$600,000.

## Saudis defended over Games snub

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan Tuesday defended Saudi Arabia's decision not to send their World Cup side to the Asian Games in October.

The Saudi federation is to send an under-23 side to the October event in Japan. Velappan said: "You have to understand how tired the World Cup squad is. They have basically been training since last October."

Velappan also said he preferred seeing under-23 rather than national sides compete for the Asian Games. This is

more in keeping with the age requirements for the Olympics football competition, he said.

Hoog Kong press reports said the side which defeated Belgium and Morocco on their way to the second round of the World Cup finals had "cheapered" the Asian Games.

Velappan said the Saudi decision also conformed with the AFC's determination to convince the OCA to switch the Asian Games from a national to under-23 level, in line with the Olympic's football competition.

## Bobby gets knighted

LONDON (AFP) — Football legend Bobby Charlton was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace Tuesday.

And the man who won 106 caps and played an inspirational role in the English World Cup victory of 1966, admitted: "I was far more nervous than when I was playing for England."

He insisted that he should be called Sir Bobby rather than the more formal Sir Robert.

The former Manchester United player, now a club director, added: "The Queen was very charming. It was a wonderful day and this is a tremendous honour."

"You can't plan for being honoured and this is for the game of football really."

Sir Bobby, 56, survived the 1958 Munich air disaster in which several of his Manchester United teammates died and his record of 49 goals for England still stands.



Bobby Charlton

He was accompanied by his wife Norma and daughter Suzanne, a BBC TV weather forecaster, and Andrea.

## Kiwi athlete escapes drugs ban

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand Commonwealth Games hammer thrower Angus Cooper escaped a drugs ban when Athletic New Zealand (ANZ) cleared him of cheating here Monday.

Cooper tested positive for banned substance pseudoephedrine at the national athletic championship of Hamilton in March. But an ANZ tribunal ruled: "The tribunal was completely satisfied there was no attempt by Cooper to cheat or take a substance that was for the purpose of enhancing his performance."

Cooper took an over-the-counter treatment for cold or flu, the tribunal said. He took a nasal decongestant because he was suffering from a cold during the national championships and advised officials of the medication at the time.

Part of Cooper's defence was that pseudoephedrine was not a substance banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF). Although the drug is not listed by name, ANZ decided that because it was so closely related to ephedrine, a named banned substance, it fell under the "chemically or pharmacologically related compounds" definition put out by the IAAF.

Under IAAF rules a three-month suspension was immediately imposed when Cooper first tested positive, that ban has now been served and Cooper is able to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, next month.

Cooper will appeal against the ban at the IAAF arbitration panel. He is challenging the classification of pseudoephedrine as a performance-enhancing substance.

ANZ's three-man doping panel originally agreed to keep the names secret because it feared legal appeals.

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**GOREN BRIDGE**  
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
Answers to Weekly Bridge Quiz

Q1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A87 ♠A8 ♠98543 ♠KQJ1098765  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West  
Pass Pass 1♣ 1♥  
Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—A difficult problem. You have too much to keep silent, but no convenient bid. Since partner can pass your call, neither one spade nor two clubs is attractive. The best of a bad bunch is a raise to two hearts, even though you are a trump short for this action. Partner will not be disappointed when you contribute two aces to the cause.

Q2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A1076 ♠QJ8742 ♠Void ♠Q3  
Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?  
A.—This is a marginal hand, but possession of both major suits confers a huge tactical advantage. We would choose one spade for our initial salvo, allowing us an easy rebid in hearts. If we were to open one heart, we would have to suppress our spade suit, since the hand isn't strong enough for a reverse.

Q3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A1076 ♠QJ8742 ♠Void ♠Q3  
Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?  
A.—This is a marginal hand, but possession of both major suits confers a huge tactical advantage. We would choose one spade for our initial salvo, allowing us an easy rebid in hearts. If we were to open one heart, we would have to suppress our spade suit, since the hand isn't strong enough for a reverse.

Q4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠10 ♠KQ97654 ♠Void ♠108432  
Your right-hand opponent opens 1♣. What do you bid?

Q5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A87 ♠A8 ♠98543 ♠KQJ1098765  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West  
Pass Pass 1♣ 1♥  
Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
A.—A difficult problem. You have too much to keep silent, but no convenient bid. Since partner can pass your call, neither one spade nor two clubs is attractive. The best of a bad bunch is a raise to two hearts, even though you are a trump short for this action. Partner will not be disappointed when you contribute two aces to the cause.

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	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	<b>PLAZA</b>	<b>CONCORD</b>	<b>AMMOUN Cinema and Theatre</b>	<b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b>	<b>AHLAN THEATRE</b>
	<b>INTERSECTION</b>	Sharihan-Mahmoud Hamideh — Hussein Fahmi in	<b>CONCORD "1"</b> Robin Hood <b>Men In Tights</b> <b>CONCORD "2"</b> GET AWAY	<b>THELMA AND LOUISE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30 Starting Aug. 1 the Political play <b>"SAHRA KANAUNIEH"</b>	Today & Everyday Abu, Awad in social comedy <b>"PUNCTURED BAG"</b>	Present their play: <b>WHAT A PEACE!</b> (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tue days.
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30			



# Jordan says Oslo talks are no secret, part of multilateral decisions

## Jordan, PLO and Israel draw up terms of reference for regional study

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday rejected the characterisation as secret of a round of talks it held with Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Oslo, Norway, on water and said the meeting was part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Munther Haddadin, head of Jordan's team negotiating water-sharing in the region, also said the Oslo meeting did not produce any agreement but it approved the terms of reference for a Norwegian sponsored study on water institutions and laws and regulations related to water in the Middle East.

"There is no truth to reports that the meeting produced an agreement," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times. "Nor was the meeting any secret."

He was referring to reports in the Oslo media and also carried by some international agencies which described the talks as secret and implied that the discussions somehow run parallel to the negotiations on regional water-sharing held as part of the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process.

"The Norwegian government invited parties involved in the water negotiations to a meeting and we accepted and also contributed to the deliberations and outcome of the meeting," Dr. Haddadin said. "It was not a meeting of the steering group of the multilateral committee," he added.

Dr. Haddadin said the meeting drew up the terms of reference for conducting a "regional comparative study," as called for by the multilateral group on water when it met last in Muscat, Oman, in April.

Zafer Al Alem and Ali Ghezawi, both members of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral group, attended the meeting along with Riyadh Al Khodary and Fadal Kawash from the Palestinian side and Avram Katz-Oz and Ilan Baruch of Israel.

A Norwegian press release identified the objective of the study project as providing "the participating parties with an overview of water management bodies, legal issues (such as water laws, rules and regulations), and economic issues (such as water supply economics and pricing)."

"The study will serve as background information for all parties towards enhancement of future regional cooperation in water management," it said. "Results of the study may also assist in the structuring of the newly established Palestinian Water Authority."

In an implicit call on Syria and Lebanon, which have made their participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process on progress in their bilateral negotiations with Israel, the press release said: "The participation of Syria and Lebanon in particular, and other interested parties in the Middle East would be welcomed."

The initiative is financed and sponsored by the Oslo government and helped by the World Foundation for Environment and Development-Oslo under the leadership of Professor J. Martin Trolldenier with assistance from Professor Just Gjessing from the University of Oslo.

"Water is the symbol of progress and development, and we must preserve it as a natural, god-given gift," Prof. Trolldenier television told Norway's NRK. "Giving water away is almost impossible."

Dr. Haddadin emphasised that the workings of the Oslo meeting had no bearing on the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on water-sharing. He noted that the two sides held their last meeting in Wadi Araba on their southern border last week.

During that meeting, Israel, for the first time, agreed to discuss Jordan's demand for a fair share of the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers in the north.

The discussions will resume in early August.

"It's going to be a very important step... to achieve understanding on water between the partners in the Middle East," Israeli delegate Katz-Oz told NRK.

"Certainly we're still waiting for two other parties... the Syrians and the Lebanese, to join us. If we achieve that... that will be a full answer for this very important step here," he said.

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Dr. Shaath welcomed the joint declaration, calling it "a step towards a comprehensive peace settlement."

He said the Palestinians "always believed" that their September 13 and May 4 peace accords with Israel "were part of the comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Meanwhile Palestinian Economic Minister Ahmad Qouria said Tuesday that he had held "important" talks with Israeli economic negotiators on Sunday and Monday.

"It was one of the most important meetings concerning the implementation of the economic agreement," signed between Israel and the PLO in Paris last April, Mr. Qouria told the Cairo-based Voice of Arabs radio station.

The two sides met in Vered Jericho, near the autonomous town of Jericho, where they agreed to form eight sub-committees dealing with issues including agriculture, trade, tourism, transport, banks and taxes.

"The joint Palestinian-Israeli committee is working to remove difficulties and overcome economic problems," Mr. Qouria said.

Dr. Shaath held intense 90-minute talks with Israeli delegation head General Danny Rothchild, then the rest of the Israeli team before his own delegation members joined him.

Details of the talks were not revealed.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday signed an accord in Washington officially ending 46 years of hostility.

Dr. Shaath referred to such areas as tourism, taxation and social welfare. Under the May accord giving Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, transfer of these to PLO control in the rest of the West Bank was to be negotiated.

The talks on transfer of power were held for three days last week with both sides saying they were near agreement on education and would work on health this week.

Riyad Zaanoun, health minister of the new Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, said Tuesday that he hoped to convince Israel of the need to adopt a comprehensive health plan throughout the territories.

## Israel-PLO talks resumed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Tuesday in Cairo to discuss transferring control of education and health to Palestinians throughout Israeli-occupied territory.

"It is a test," Nabil Shaath, the Palestinians' chief negotiator, told reporters. "If we succeed today and tomorrow to transfer the authority of education and health... transfer of authority in every field will be easy."

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WHITE HOUSE DINNER: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and First Lady Hillary Clinton (third from right), and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah Rabin at the White House late Monday attending a dinner hosted by the Clintons (AFP photo)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah Rabin at the White House late Monday attending a dinner hosted by the Clintons (AFP photo)

## Car-bomb explodes near London Israeli embassy

LONDON (AP) — A bomb hidden in a car shattered the Israeli embassy Tuesday and broke windows in surrounding buildings and a royal palace. At least 15 people were treated for injuries but no one was killed, police said.

"It was such a huge, huge explosion, parts of the building just collapsed," said Rachel Gordon, who works in the embassy's press office.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "Anti-terrorist branch officers have confirmed that the explosion appears to have been caused by an explosive device in a motor vehicle." She said all the injuries were minor.

No one immediately claimed responsibility.

Scotland Yard said the car, which was destroyed, had been parked on a grassy area at the front of the embassy along Palace Green, a street that runs past the palace.

The blast came a day after Jordan and Israel officially ended decades of hostility at a ceremony in Washington.

and eight days after a bomb at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina killed 80 people. Officials suspect ultranationalists or Middle Eastern groups in that attack.

"When we heard the explosion we immediately laid down on the floor," said Amir Maimon, the second secretary at the embassy.

"Right afterwards we evacuated people from the embassy to Hyde Park and sent people home," Mr. Maimon said. "There was no panic. Everything is under control and thank God we are all alive."

Steve Partridge, who said he was about 20 metres from the explosion, said the street "was full of bits of vehicle."

"It felt like hits of glass were flying everywhere. All the windows in the surrounding buildings were smashed out," said Mr. Partridge.

Peter Seabright, who works at the Royal Gardens Hotel near the embassy, said the Israeli building had been heavily damaged. "It was like one story was on top of the other," he said.

Police kept reporters and cameras well away from the building.

The embassy and surrounding buildings were evacuated and police cordoned off the area. Some people sat on the sidewalk of Kensington High Street, a busy commercial area, trying to keep working with pocket calculators.

Witnesses reported seeing a plume of smoke, but the London fire brigade said there was no fire.

Boaz Modai, a spokesman in the situation room at the Israeli foreign ministry said on Israel radio that three embassy employees were lightly injured.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we face a wave of extreme Islamic radical movements in the Arab-Muslim countries," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview with NBC News in the United States.

"They have the infrastructure all over the world, in the United States, in Europe, in Latin America," Mr. Rabin said.

Michael Whioce, defence director of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said the group had approached police last week asking that they ban parking outside Jewish buildings. He said there had been no response.

The Israeli embassy, which formerly belonged to a famous Anglo-Jewish family, the Montefiores, is protected by a high gate. Visitors are only allowed in after speaking through an intercom.

There is a police sentry box at the entrance to Palace Green and officers check all visitors. Plainclothes Israeli security officers were on the sidewalk, and uniformed London bobbies stand across the street.

Similar precautions are enforced at the consular section, at the rear of the embassy.

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## Attas visits Cairo ahead of Geneva talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — A top southern Yemeni leader arrived Tuesday to meet with Egyptian officials ahead of this week's reconciliation talks in Switzerland between the northern-led government and the defeated south.

Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, who is also a former prime minister of the united Yemen, was expected to meet with foreign minister Amr Musa.

Mr. Attas will lead the separatists' delegation to Thursday's talks in Geneva with his former foes in meetings that will be attended by U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

The two-month war broke out May 4 after months of feuding between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the southern leader, Ali Salem Al Beidh, over the pace of integration between the former North and south Yemen.

After their defeat earlier this month, the top southern leaders — including Mr. Beidh — fled to Oman taking with them warplanes, warships and military vehicles that Sanaa now wants back.

President Saleh, a northern, has declared a general amnesty.

The two states merged four years ago in a move that was welcomed by the population. But the two armies were never fully merged and the sides' politicians could not agree on the division of power between two leaders from the conservative north and the socialist south.

A U.N. statement said the two sides would meet on Thursday under Mr. Brahimi, who is trying to restore peace to Yemen after the civil war.

"The object of the meeting is to explore the possibility of engaging upon a worthy and reasonable political dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect," the statement said.

The government will be represented by Abdul Karim Al Iryani, minister for planning and development, and Abdullah Saleh Al Ashtal, ambassador to the United Nations.

The south will be represented by Mr. Attas and Abdullah Al Asnag.

Mr. Attas told Reuters in Abu Dhabi on Monday that he hoped the Geneva talks could "lay down the peace" for future negotiations between the two sides.

"We have a lot of proposals. If the north is really keen to come to peace and stability it can work," he said.

A senior Yemeni government official, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, said the talks were the continuation of those between Dr. Iryani and Mr. Attas held in New York while the war was still on.

U.N. spokeswoman Theresa Gastao said the talks, which were being held at the request of the parties themselves, were "exploratory" and would probably last two or three days.

A leader of the southern Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Monday accused the government of carrying out reprisals against YSP members who stayed in Yemen at the end of the civil war.

"Our property has been confiscated and destroyed, our budget is frozen and our members are afraid," YSP Member of Parliament Ali Saleh Obad Mokbel said.

Mr. Mokbel, one of four YSP politburo members who stayed in Sanaa, added: "We can't even publish a newspaper because the government took our printing presses away."

Mr. Mokbel, who comes from the southern city of Zinjibar, said his homes in Aden and Zinjibar had occupied by northerners since the war.

He said YSP members were expecting further "subtle reprisals" like looting their jobs.

But he said: "The chief problem is the crusade against us," from the Islamic Al Islah party.

Al Islah is part of the ruling coalition in Sanaa, along with the YSP and Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress.

Its leading theorist is Abdul Majid Zandani, a member of the presidential council.

"Sheikh Zandani continues to call us infidels and he and other imams (prayer leaders) tell the masses on Fridays that we do things prohibited by Islam," said Mr. Mokbel.

"Every Friday religious leaders speak out against socialists. It really is like a crusade."

Mr. Mokbel also said that thousands of Yemeni soldiers in exile should be allowed to return to Yemen.

He estimated that over 15,000 Yemeni soldiers are in exile, most in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Some 200 exiled soldiers have been allowed to return to Yemen already but much more had to be done, he said.

He said the women refused to cooperate. "It's as if they are under a spell," the newspaper quoted Mr. Shafiee as saying, adding the preacher will be prosecuted in an Islamic court.

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's army and navy academies will admit women students this year for the first time, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday. "This is a progressive decision because we all know women are as capable as men," a ministry spokesman said by telephone. Fewer men are applying to enter military schools while the number of women interested in becoming soldiers has increased in recent years, he said. A total of 35 women will be accepted in the army and navy academies this year, and the air force academy will open to women soon, he said. Women are already being trained at the military's political strategy school and most work as teachers but do not see active service. It was unclear whether the military's first women students would become soldiers.

## Out goes the dull old registry office in U.K.

LONDON (R) — Britons who eschew romantic church weddings will no longer be doomed to marry instead in soulless state offices, parliament has decided. The House of Lords passed a bill allowing hotels, stately homes or other suitably respectable places to host civil weddings, which now may only take place at a registry office. British church weddings, recognised as legal by the state, have been proving a big attraction among American tourists this summer following the U.S. success of the comedy film Four Weddings and a Funeral. But British couples who forego them have until now also had to lose much of the pageantry of their wedding day. Backing the act, Baroness Jay told her lord and lady colleagues in the unelected house that she married four months ago "in a typically antiseptic 1950s registry office." Baroness Jay, 55, said the lighting had been "unattractively fluorescent" — even for brides many years younger than 1 am — and prominent signs for nearby toilets had hung from the walls. But the act's advocates reassured their tradition-bound colleagues it would certainly not lead to "Las Vegas-style wedding parlours" popping up across the land.

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